

WOODLAND PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS PLAN

Introduction

What is a Pandemic?

A pandemic is a global disease outbreak. An influenza pandemic occurs when a new influenza virus emerges for which there is little or no immunity in the human population, begins to cause serious illness and then spreads easily person-to-person worldwide. According to the World Health Organization (WHO) there have been notable pandemic epidemics in 1918, 1957 and 1968

Unlike many other viral respiratory infections such as the common cold the flu causes severe illness and life threatening complications in many people.

Influenza, or flu in humans is a highly contagious disease that is usually spread through droplets of moisture caused by coughing or sneezing. The droplets spread to a distance of 3 to 6 feet. The droplets are propelled and come in contact with another person's

- Conjunctiva
- Mouth or,
- Nasal mucosa

Various forms of virus cause flu. As the virus attacks the body it causes any of a variety of symptoms, the most common of which include:

fever	headache	runny nose
body aches	cough	sore throat
fatigue	stomach and intestinal discomfort	

The typical incubation is 2 days with a range of 1 to 4 days. The infectious period peaks during the first 3 days of the illness.

Phases of the Plan

Pandemic preparedness is a process, not an isolated event. The plan is intended to guide the development of appropriate procedures, prepare staff and establish a state of readiness in case a pandemic flu occurs.

The plan is developed using the nationally recommended categorization of phases of emergency response of the National Incident Management Systems (NIMS)

Mitigation/Prevention- What we should be “doing always”

Preparedness – What we should be “doing now”

Response- What we should be “doing when the emergency occurs”

Recovery – What we should be “doing after the emergency conditions pass”

Mitigation/Prevention

1) Disseminate information about preventive hygiene

- District web site
- Literature sent home with students
 - 1) Wash hands with soap frequently
 - 2) Cover the mouth or nose when sneezing or coughing- use tissue or cough into your arm
 - 3) Avoid touching the eyes, nose or mouth
 - 4) Stay home with flu symptoms
 - 5) Keep children home until they are fever free for 24 hours without medication
 - 6) Avoid close contact with people who are sick
 - 7) Seek emergency medical care when your child has:
 - Fast breathing or trouble breathing
 - Bluish or gray skin color
 - Not drinking enough fluids
 - Severe or persistent vomiting
 - Not waking up or not interacting
 - Being so irritable that the child does not want to be held
 - Flu-like symptoms improve but then return with fever and worse cough
 - Has other chronic conditions (heart or lung disease, diabetes or asthma) and develops flu symptoms, including a fever and/or cough.
- Use of posters and visual reminders in school

2) Consider use of handwashing video with students

3) Talk with students about proper hygiene

- Cover the mouth or nose when sneezing or coughing- use tissue or cough into your arm
- Washing hands

4) Provide training to staff on infectious diseases, preventive hygiene in class

- Consider proximity of desks
- Consider limiting projects where students work closely together
- Availability of hand sanitizers in the room

5) Consider social isolation

- limit group projects
- consider change in desk arrangements

Preparedness

- 1) Identify crisis team (Superintendent, Associate Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent of Support Services, Director of Operations and Facilities, Public Information Specialist) per crisis plan
- 2) Identify all procedures and policies that may be affected/necessary in addressing a pandemic including but not limited to:
 - sick leave,
 - compensation
 - absenteeism of students
- 3) Develop a communication plan
 - Communication with staff
 - Communication with parents
Encourage parents to develop a contingency plan should their children become sick and need to stay home
 - Remember translations of material to be sent home in Spanish
 - Prepare templates for letters needed to inform parents throughout the pandemic
- 4) Determine procedures for school dismissal/closure
 - Should be based on attendance and staffing procedures
- 5) Determine procedures for sending students and staff home
- 6) Consider social isolation
 - limit group projects
 - consider change in desk arrangements
- 7) Identify contact with Lake County Health Department (Shawn Cesario, Mark Pfister)
- 8) Identify contact with Regional Office of Education (Roycealee Woods)
- 9) Discuss district plans with neighboring districts
Warren 121,
Gurnee 56,
Grayslake 46,
Grayslake 127,
Milburn 24 and
Lake Villa 46
- 10) Identify possible calendar changes
- 11) Determine continuity of learning

12) Determine continuity of school operations

- Be sure staff contact lists are up to date
- Establish remote offices if needed
- Discuss maintenance of schools

13) Inventory disinfection supplies

Response

1) Follow procedures for sending sick students home

2) Deliver timely and honest communication about actions of the district

3) Track absences of students and staff

4) Report absences to Lake County Health Department and others as needed

- Contact Communicable Disease program to report *influenza like illness* (ILI) pursuant to Lake County guidelines.

5) Consider implementation of disinfection protocol as necessary

6) Keep staff informed of status of absences

7. Conduct regular (probably daily) debriefing meetings with crisis team

Recovery

1) Consider disinfection protocol as necessary

2) Send letter to inform parents of status of pandemic

3) Mobilize crisis team of psychologists and social workers to address grief/loss as needed

4) Conduct staff meeting to inform staff of availability of counseling

5) Monitor cumulative stress effects on office staff, nurses, staff

6) Contact local counseling agencies for referrals as needed

7) Conduct debriefings with crisis team

8) Document “lessons learned” and incorporate them into plan.

Resources

State and Local

www.ready.illinois.gov

Lake County Health Department

Website: <http://www.lakecountyil.gov/health/default.htm>

Phone: 847-377-8000

Illinois Department of Public Health

Website: www.idph.state.il.us/h1n1_flu/index.htm

Phone: 217-782-0466

Federal

Center for Disease Control (CDC)

Website www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu and www.flu.gov

Hotline: 800-2232-4636

US Dept of Education

Website www.ed.gov

US Department of Health and Human Services

www.pandemicflu.gov

www.dhhs.gov

Attachments:

- Preparing for the Flu: A Communication Toolkit for Schools (Grades K-12) from the CDC
- Seasonal and 2009 H1N1 Flu: A Guide for Parents from the CDC
- The Challenge: A Publication of the Office of Safe and Drug Free Schools
- Influenza-like Illness Symptoms Screening Tool for Parents and Caregivers (English and Spanish) from Lake County Health Department
- H1N1 flu (swine flu) – Guidelines from Children’s Memorial Hospital (English and Spanish)
- H1N1 Flu (Sine Flu) Information –American Academy of Pediatrics
- Parents Guide: Interim Guidance for Novel H1N1 Flu: Taking Care of a Sick Person in Your Home – Lake County Health Department
- H1N1 Flu (Swine Flu) and You – Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Pandemic Influenza: Planning Workbook – Lake County Health Department

