



# Pandemic Flu Planning & Preparedness Activities in San Francisco

San Francisco Department of Public Health — K.A. Holbrook, O. Bruch, E. Pan, Y. Johnson, P. Leung, S. Fernyak

## Introduction

San Francisco is one of the major gateways to the United States. As such, there is always a large number of international visitors and local residents, commuters from Bay Area counties and business travelers and tourists who are in contact with people from around the globe. Because the next influenza pandemic may arise anywhere on earth, San Francisco, like every international destination must be prepared to respond to all pandemic phases.

## Outline of Activities

- Infectious Disease Emergency Response Plan – See Session #427
- Epidemiology & Surveillance Tools – See Poster #332
- Public Health Laboratory - Testing capability
- Infectious Disease Emergencies Preparedness & Response Guide
- Infection Control Recommendations
- Policies
- Up-to-date information
- Outreach efforts including assisting city partners and businesses with their planning efforts

## Infectious Disease Emergency Response Plan

SFDPH has developed an operational plan in an ICS/NIMS compliant format. See Session #427 for more information including ICS organization chart, key steps in the planning process, and lessons learned after an exercise.

## Epidemiology & Surveillance Tools

See Poster #332 for information on the major surveillance and epidemiology strategies and actions SFDPH will pursue during the pandemic alert phase.

## Public Health Lab: Testing

### Purpose:

To quickly and accurately identify infections caused by influenza and/or other viral respiratory pathogens in patients meeting criteria for suspect avian influenza infection.

### Capability:

To test for influenza virus A, including subtypes H1, H3 and H5, and influenza virus B by Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR)  
To test other viral respiratory pathogens (Parainfluenza 1, 2 & 3, RSV and Adenovirus) using culture and antigen detection methods.

## Infectious Disease Emergencies Preparedness & Response Guide

See Poster #329 for more information about this guide that describes roles & responsibilities for clinicians and the Health Dept. and provides detailed information possible infectious disease emergencies including BT associated diseases and avian influenza.

## Infection Control Recommendations

### Purpose

To provide evidence-based, citywide infection control recommendations that address different phases of an influenza pandemic and different situations including the home setting.

### Implementation

The Infection Control Working Group which is comprised of SFDPH personnel and Infection Control Professionals from all SF hospitals who meet regularly to discuss and develop infection control recommendations. Using the scientific literature, federal and state guidance and many combined years of infection control experience, this group helped create the avian and pandemic infection control guidance listed below.



### Products

- Comparison of Seasonal, Avian and Pandemic Flu Infection Control Recommendations
- Avian Influenza A (H5N1) Infection Control Recommendations for Suspect Cases
- Avian Influenza Infection Control Checklist for Facilities
- Self Monitoring Log Sheet for Health Care Workers exposed to Avian Influenza
- Interim Phase 4/5 Pandemic Flu Infection Control Recommendations
- Interim Phase 6 Pandemic Flu Infection Control Recommendations

	Seasonal Influenza	Avian Influenza	Pandemic Influenza
Prevention	Annual vaccination	Annual vaccination	Annual vaccination
Diagnosis	Standard influenza testing	Standard influenza testing	Standard influenza testing
Isolation	Standard isolation	Standard isolation	Standard isolation
Quarantine	Standard quarantine	Standard quarantine	Standard quarantine
Exposure & Treatment	Standard exposure & treatment	Standard exposure & treatment	Standard exposure & treatment
Post-exposure Prophylaxis	Standard post-exposure prophylaxis	Standard post-exposure prophylaxis	Standard post-exposure prophylaxis
Surveillance	Standard surveillance	Standard surveillance	Standard surveillance
Public Health Response	Standard public health response	Standard public health response	Standard public health response
Medical Response	Standard medical response	Standard medical response	Standard medical response

## Policies

### Purpose

- To anticipate and develop policies on pandemic response issues.
- To develop regional policies and plans for coordination

### Implementation

This planning and preparedness activity is in progress and dovetailing with our IDER planning. Some policies have been developed (e.g., Position on Stockpiling medicines). Also see poster #348 for details on Isolation & Quarantine. Regional collaboration and coordination on pandemic flu response has begun under the auspices of the Association of Bay Area Health Officers.

## Up-to-date information

### Purpose

To provide easily accessible, up-to-date information for the public, the medical community and our planning partners.



### Implementation

#### Website provides:

- Basic info including FAQs in English, Spanish and Chinese;
- Detailed information for the medical community including what to report to public health, who to test and how to collect specimens for testing, and infection control recommendations;
- Information about how San Francisco is preparing;
- A "Pandemic Flu News" feature which provides excerpts and links to recent articles on avian and pandemic flu;
- Preparedness tools for the public, city partners and businesses.

#### Avian Influenza Information Line provides:

- Basic information on avian and pandemic flu for the public;

See Poster #329 for more info about website development.

## Outreach

### Purpose

- To educate and inform partners about pandemic flu and to assist with their planning efforts

### Audiences

#### Medical Community

##### Infection Control Professionals

- SFDPH leads the Infection Control Working Group which is comprised of Infection Control Professionals from all SF hospitals;

##### Hospitals

- SFDPH conducted a very well received table top exercise for hospitals focusing on pandemic flu infection control issues. Emergency Preparedness Coordinators and Infection Control Professionals from all SF hospitals participated in addition to key SFDPH personnel including representatives from EMS, the Public Health Lab and Office of Planning & Policy;
- SFDPH partners with SF hospitals for emergency/disaster planning and preparedness including sending representatives to the Hospital Council Emergency Preparedness Taskforce;

##### Clinicians

- SFDPH provides lectures on avian/pandemic flu to high priority clinician groups (e.g. emergency medicine, primary care)
- Health alerts on avian flu are faxed to all SF clinicians and posted on our website.

##### City Partners

The Avian/Pandemic Flu Task Force was convened in the Fall of 2005 to provide a forum for city partners to discuss and develop agency plans and preparedness steps.

Presentations: SFDPH provides presentations to decision-makers within city agencies;

Continuity of Operations (COOP) Template: SFDPH developed a well-received COOP Template for city agencies.

##### Businesses

- Symposia: SFDPH has participated in and hosted business symposia for both large and small businesses.



- Continuity of Operations Template: SFDPH created a nationally recognized Continuity of Operations Template for businesses.

##### General Public

- Extensive information on avian and pandemic influenza is available on our website;
- Currently SFDPH is planning for larger outreach efforts.

## For further information

Visit our website at [www.sfdph.org/cdcp](http://www.sfdph.org/cdcp) for many of these documents. Contact Dr. Karen Holbrook for more information ([karen.holbrook@sfdph.org](mailto:karen.holbrook@sfdph.org))

