

THE SECOND FRIDAY REPORT – #4 – April 13, 2007

A monthly newsletter update on local, state, national and worldwide events and happenings concerning Pandemic Influenza brought to you by the York/Adams Metropolitan Medical Response System (YAMMRS)

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1. Avian Influenza

Countries elsewhere in the World continue to have isolated outbreaks of the highly pathogenic H5N1 influenza strain among poultry flocks, while North America and South America remain uninvolved so far. China and Bangladesh have had outbreak activity in birds during the past month.

2. Human A/H5N1 Influenza

The World Health Organization (WHO) reports, as of April 11, 2007, that there have been 291 confirmed cases of human A/H5N1 influenza in 12 countries, resulting in 172 deaths (59% fatality rate). That's an increase of 14 more cases and 4 more deaths since last month's Report. No new countries have been added to the list of involved countries with human cases. We continue in the WHO's Phase 3, which means a new influenza virus (A/H5N1) causes human cases but there is no or very limited sustained human-to-human transmission. We have been in Phase 3 since January 2004.

(www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/en/index.html)

3. Seasonal Influenza

Our regular flu season is definitely winding down. Again, it has not been much of a flu season at all. This has been true not only for Pennsylvania but also for most of the Nation, except in some scattered and isolated areas.

Planning for next Winter's flu season has already begun. Vaccine orders actually were placed back in January. CDC and vaccine manufacturers recently decided which three influenza strains will be in next season's vaccine. Discussion about potential dates for our local Drive-Thru Program at the York Expo Center is underway. One flu season is hardly over before planning for the next one begins!

4. Other Items of Interest on H5N1

In the January Second Friday Report I mentioned an 18-minute video on Pandemic Influenza available from the American Red Cross on DVD. You can now view this excellent video on the following Web link:

http://a1881.g.akamai.net/7/1881/26640/v0001/redcross.download.akamai.com/26640/psa/movie/PandemicFlu/PF_Video1.html. It's a long link to type in but worth the time and effort.

If you like what you see and think you can use the DVD for your own

presentations, contact Marnie Sippel at the York County Chapter of the ARC – 771-3571.

A final note from the Editor: Please let me know about items that you would like to share with others concerning Pandemic Influenza. Also, if you would like to hear about a particular Influenza topic, please feel free to contact me at dhawk@yorkcity.org. If others would like to be added to the mailing list for this Report, please forward email addresses to either me at the above email address or to Bernadette Lauer at bklaue@ycdes.org.