

THE SECOND FRIDAY REPORT – #6 – June 8, 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

Isolated outbreaks of high-pathogenicity Avian Influenza A/H5N1 in bird populations continue to be reported in various countries of the world as previously. There are no reports of high-path H5N1 infected birds, migratory or otherwise, in North America or the U.S. as yet.

Interestingly, a different Avian Influenza virus, A/H7N2, has been recently circulating in Wales and northwest England and has been infecting poultry and at least four humans. None of the human cases have been seriously ill or died as a result of this infection. Apparently this A/H7N2 strain has all of the characteristics of being low-pathogenicity for both birds and humans. However, there have been in the past high-path Avian Influenza A/H7N2 outbreaks such as one that occurred in the Netherlands in 2003.

2. Human A/H5N1 Influenza

The World Health Organization (WHO) reports, as of June 6, 2007, that there have been 310 confirmed cases of human A/H5N1 influenza in 12 countries, resulting in 189 deaths (61% fatality rate). That's an increase of 19 more cases and 17 more deaths (Wow! That's a lot of deaths!) since April's Report.

Some of you may recall that in our May 11th Second Friday Report there had been no update of cases or deaths on the WHO website since April 11th. Seems as though there was a bit of a disagreement between WHO and the Government of Indonesia over outside laboratory testing and property rights of the virus. Consequently, Indonesia was not cooperating with the WHO on the case-reporting front either. Apparently WHO and Indonesia have settled their disagreements and are now back on track.

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

Not much to report here. Flu season is over for now and planning is well underway for the next season.

4. Other Items of Interest on Pandemic Influenza

OSHA Issues Pandemic Influenza Guidance

On May 21st, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) released a health and safety guidance intended to help health care employers and workers prepare for a possible influenza pandemic and protect workers who would be on the “frontline” caring for ill patients. It provides resources and tools to aid in workplace planning efforts, information about risk communication, technical information about industrial hygiene and infection control techniques in healthcare settings, and advice on diagnosis and treatment of staff.

http://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA_pandemic_health.pdf

*****SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT*****

Pandemic Influenza Summit Update – August 1, 2007 – Holiday Inn Holidome, York, Pa.

The York/Adams Metropolitan Medical Response System (YAMMRS) will sponsor a Pandemic Influenza Summit Update on Wednesday, August 1st. This year’s half-day conference (7:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.) will be a follow-up to last August’s very successful Summit and will be held at the same location – the Holiday Inn Holidome in York, Pa. Tentative plans include four to five speakers who will inform those attending about the progress of pandemic influenza planning at the international, national, state and local levels. Last year’s Summit included over 200 attendees. If you are available on this date, please consider trying to attend. The Summit will again be free and a nice breakfast will also be served. It is expected that Summit flyers will be sent out by the end of this month to at least all of those registered last year. Recipients of the Second Friday Report will most likely receive an electronic registration flyer.

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 bklauser@ycdes.org.