

THE SECOND FRIDAY REPORT – #7 – July 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

Isolated outbreaks of high-pathogenicity Avian Influenza A/H5N1 in bird populations continue to be reported in various countries of the world as previously. The latest announcement (July 5th) from the World Organization for Animal Health, also known as OIE or Office International des Epizooties, is the discovery of 3 dead swans in the eastern part of France testing positive for H5N1 Avian Influenza. This makes France the third European country in recent weeks to report new outbreaks in wild birds. There are no reports of high-path H5N1 infected birds, migratory or otherwise, in North America or the U.S. as yet.

2. Human A/H5N1 Influenza

The World Health Organization (WHO) reports, as of July 11, 2007, that there have been 318 confirmed cases of human A/H5N1 influenza in 12 countries, resulting in 192 deaths (60% fatality rate). That's an increase of 8 more cases and 3 more deaths since June's Report. 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

Nothing new to report here at this time.

4. Other Items of Interest on Pandemic Influenza

HHS Pandemic Leadership Forum Mobilizes Employer, Faith-Based, Health Care and Civic Leaders

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) assembled in Washington, D.C., in mid-June with 100 influential leaders from the employer, faith-based, civic and health care communities to participate in a forum to help Americans become more prepared for an influenza pandemic. The *Pandemic Influenza Leadership Forum* is part of a new national campaign sponsored by HHS to encourage people to prepare for a possible pandemic. Using messages and materials developed by HHS, leaders will provide the public with the essential steps necessary for personal pandemic flu preparedness. "Preparing for an influenza pandemic is a shared responsibility," HHS Secretary Michael Leavitt said. "By preparing now, individuals will be better able to deal with a pandemic, slow the spread of illness, and lessen the overall impact to themselves and to society."

HHS Awards Two Contracts to Expand Domestic Vaccine Manufacturing Capacity for a Potential Influenza Pandemic

HHS announced in mid June the awarding of two contracts totaling \$132.5 million to Sanofi Pasteur and to MedImmune over five years to retrofit existing domestic vaccine manufacturing facilities and to provide year-around operations for manufacturing pandemic influenza vaccines. Upon completion of renovations at facilities of both companies, domestic pandemic vaccine manufacturing capacity will expand by 16 percent and will afford year-around production of pre-pandemic influenza vaccines for the national stockpile, which is limited currently to three months each year. Major federal government vaccine goals include the

establishment of pre-pandemic influenza vaccine stockpiles for 20 million persons in the critical workforce and the expansion of domestic pandemic vaccine manufacturing surge capacity for 300 million persons within six months of the onset of an influenza pandemic.

*****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. This year's speakers will include Dr. Wallace Greene from the Diagnostic Virology Laboratory at the Hershey Medical Center, Mr. Michael Huff from the Pennsylvania Department of Health, and three local experts describing their experiences developing their organization's pandemic plans during the past year. The Summit will again be free, but seating is limited and registration is required. Register by July 23rd. E-mail the Office of Emergency Management at oem@ycdes.org to request a flyer and registration information or visit the OEM website at http://www.ycdes.org/html/training_calendar_aug.html.

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 bklauer@ycdes.org.