

THE SECOND FRIDAY REPORT – #8 – August 10, 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. Recently affected countries within the past month include: Germany (a domestic goose), Bangladesh (commercial and backyard poultry), and India (backyard poultry). There are no reports of high-path H5N1 infected birds, migratory or otherwise, in North America or the U.S. as of yet.

2. Human A/H5N1 Influenza

The World Health Organization (WHO) reports, as of July 25, 2007, that there have been 319 confirmed cases of human A/H5N1 influenza in 12 countries, resulting in 192 deaths (60% fatality rate). That's an increase of 1 case and 0 deaths since July's Second Friday Report. The latest case is a 25-year-old female from Egypt. 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.\[www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/en/index.html\]\(http://2004.www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/en/index.html\)](http://2004.www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/en/index.html)

3. Seasonal Influenza

New guidelines for this coming winter's Influenza season have been published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta. Six principles stressed in this year's recommendations include:

Importance of the 2-dose schedule for children aged 6 months to 8 years receiving the flu shot for the first time.

Children in the same age group who received only 1 flu shot last year should receive two flu shots this year.

All persons who want to reduce the risk of becoming ill with the flu or transmitting the flu to others should be vaccinated.

Immunization providers should offer flu vaccine and schedule immunization clinics throughout the flu season.

Health-care facilities should consider level of flu vaccine coverage among their employees to be one measure of a patient safety quality program and should implement policies to encourage their personnel to receive the flu vaccine.

The 2007-2008 trivalent vaccine virus strains include: A/Solomon Island/3/2006 (H1N1)-like (new for this season), A/Wisconsin/67/2005 (H3N2)-like, and B/Malaysia/2506/2004-like viruses.

4. Other Items of Interest on Pandemic Influenza

Successful Pandemic Influenza Summit Update Held in York The York/Adams Metropolitan Medical Response System (YAMMRS) sponsored a very successful Pandemic Influenza Summit Update on Wednesday, August 1st, at the Holiday Inn Holidome in York. Attendance was 139 individuals. This year's half-day conference was a follow-up to last August's Summit and featured

progress made in the past year at the national, state and local levels. This year's keynote speakers included Dr. Wallace Greene from the Diagnostic Virology Laboratory at the Hershey Medical Center and Mr. Jeffrey Blystone from the Pennsylvania Department of Health. In addition, three local experts described their experiences developing their organization's pandemic plans during the past year – the school perspective from Mr. Terry Riley of Lincoln Intermediate Unit #12, the business perspective from Mr. Patrick Shull of Harristown Development Corp., and the hospital perspective from Dr. Charles Marley of Gettysburg Hospital. The Summit was financed this year by the York City Bureau of Health through a Pandemic Influenza Grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Health.

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 bklauder@ycdes.org.