

Pandemic Influenza Table Top Exercise



FEMA Region II

November 21, 2013



Overview

- **Participants:** Federal, state, local government and private sector
- **Exercise:** Pandemic Influenza Tabletop Exercise
- **Purpose:** To foster a partnership between the government and private sector; increase continuity readiness under pandemic influenza conditions; and identify gaps and areas for improvement
- **Scope:** New York City Metropolitan Area
- **Date:** November 21, 2013
- **Where:** 26 Federal Plaza, New York, NY
- **Deliverables:** Exercises; lessons learned; and after-action reports



Building Block Approach

- **2013**
 - Phase 1: Table Top Pandemic Influenza Exercise 2013
 - Phase 2: Lessons Learned/After Action Report
- **2014**
 - Phase 3: Full Scale Pandemic Influenza Exercise 2014
 - Phase 4: Lessons Learned/After Action Report
 - Phase 5: Corrective Action Report via NYU Partnership (proposed)

Scope

- Identify ways of supporting the Essential Functions and the development of pandemic planning as part of an all-hazards approach to *continuity*.
- Ascertain solutions or alternative actions to challenges, gaps or weaknesses for *continuity* presented during an influenza pandemic event.

Top 10 Goals for Participants

- 1) Refresh business and government continuity and pandemic plans
- 2) Expose those not involved in the H1N1 response or the 2007 UST sponsored pandemic tabletop exercise to pandemic influenza planning
- 3) Fulfill regulatory requirements to maintain and test continuity and pandemic plans
- 4) Update HR policies in relation to paid sick time for non-exempt workers
- 5) Produce updated succession planning models

Top 10 Goals for Participants (con'td)

- 6) Assess long-term work-from-home strategies viability in relation to the national internet backbone
- 7) Establish methods for how the public / private sector would implement social distancing techniques in the workplace
- 8) Highlight community antiviral distribution plans as well as review internal antiviral distribution plans (if applicable)
- 9) Improve employee communication methods
- 10) Refresh pandemic influenza supply distribution plans

Assumptions

- Up to 35 percent of government and private sector staff may be absent for periods of about 2 weeks at the height of a pandemic wave with lower levels of staff absent for a few weeks on either side of the peak.
- While a pandemic will not damage power lines, banks, or computer networks, it will ultimately threaten all critical infrastructures by its impact on an organization's human resources by removing essential personnel from the workplace for weeks or months.
- Vaccine will most likely not be available in the early stages of a pandemic.

Objective 1

- To foster partnerships between public and private sectors.
 - Review and analyze continuity communications with stakeholders, partner agencies and/or customers.
 - Encourage collaboration of best practices and strategies amongst various organizations



Objective 2

- Test an organization's ability to plan for and react to a pandemic influenza outbreak.
 - Provide tools and resources for creation of pandemic influenza plan if not developed
 - Identify and prioritize essential functions.
 - Test alert notification for local, state, and national levels
 - Identify Supply Chain Challenges



Objective 3

- Evaluate and validate Continuity of Operations planning and processes for a pandemic.
 - Pandemic Influenza Plan review
 - Activation of telework policy
 - Succession Plan
 - Social Distancing
 - HR policies regarding absenteeism



Objective 4

- Identify special considerations and materials for protecting the health and safety of employees during a pandemic outbreak.
 - Social distancing materials
 - Community interventions
 - CDC syndromic surveillance
 - www.flu.gov
 - www.cdc.gov

Key Partnerships



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Federal Executive Boards

- **The Federal Executive Boards (FEBs)**, established by [Presidential Directive in 1961](#), are a forum for communication and collaboration among Federal agencies outside of Washington, DC. The National network of 28 FEBs, located in areas of significant Federal populations, serves as the cornerstone for strategic partnering in Government
- **Mission Statement** - To create value to the public by fostering communication, coordination and collaboration with Federal, state, and local government agencies.
- **Vision** – Creating partnerships for intergovernmental collaboration.
- **Current Programs include:** Emergency Preparedness, Security and Employee Safety, Human Capital Readiness, Combined Federal Campaign, Awards Program, and Community Relations.



Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) – Region II

- FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.
- FEMA serves America as a coordinator for disaster relief and emergency management.
- FEMA Region II supports New York, New Jersey, Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico.



The Clearing House

- Established in 1853, The Clearing House is the oldest banking association and payments company in the United States. It is owned by the world's largest commercial banks, which collectively employ over 2 million people and hold more than half of all U.S. deposits.
- The Clearing House Association is a nonpartisan advocacy organization representing-through regulatory comment letters, amicus briefs and white papers-the interests of its owner banks on a variety of systemically important banking issues.
- The Clearing House Payments Company provides payment, clearing, and settlement services to its member banks and other financial institutions, clearing almost \$2 trillion daily and representing nearly half of the automated-clearing-house, funds-transfer, and check-image payments made in the U.S.



Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association (SIFMA)

- SIFMA's mission is to develop policies and practices which strengthen financial markets and which encourage capital availability, job creation and economic growth while building trust and confidence in the financial industry. SIFMA, with offices in New York and Washington, D.C., is the U.S. regional member of the Global Financial Markets Association (GFMA).



Department of Health & Human Services (HHS)

- HHS is the United States government's principal agency for protecting the health of all Americans and providing essential human services, especially for those who are least able to help themselves. HHS works closely with state and local governments, and many HHS-funded services are provided at the local level by state or county agencies, or through private sector grantees. HHS Region II supports New York, New Jersey, Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico.



Registration

<http://pandemicinfluenzatabletop.eventbrite.com>



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