# PANDEMIC ACCORD: 2013-14 Pandemic Influenza Continuity Exercise Series

The Federal Executive Boards in New York City and Northern New Jersey in partnership with FEMA Region II, The Department of Health and Human Services Region II, Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association (SIFMA) and the Clearing House Association are sponsoring a two year series of pandemic influenza continuity exercises - tabletop exercise 2013, full scale exercise 2014 - to increase readiness for a pandemic event amongst Federal Executive Departments and Agencies, US Court, State, tribal, local jurisdictional and private sector continuity.

Pandemic influenza is a global outbreak of disease that occurs when a new influenza virus appears or "emerges" in the human population causing serious illness, as it spreads from person to person worldwide. History teaches us that the impact of a pandemic can be far-reaching. The 1918 "Spanish Flu" influenza killed approximately 30,000 people in NYC, 500,000 in the United States and as many as 50 -100 million worldwide. Furthermore, it leads to widespread social disruption and economic loss.

Pandemic influenza is unique in that, unlike many other catastrophic events, it will not directly affect physical infrastructure. 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 causing a loss essential personnel from the workplace for weeks or months - *National Strategy for Pandemic Influenza Implementation Plan* (May 2006).

Economists, epidemiologists and other experts predict that the effects of a modern-day pandemic will be seen in every industry and government agency at local, regional, national and international levels. Typically a pandemic influenza will come in "waves" each lasting 6-8 weeks with several months between each wave. The CDC estimates that between 15%-35% of the United States population could be affected by pandemic influenza and the economic impact could range between \$71.3 and \$166.5 billion (2006 estimates).

The exercise objectives are to mitigate vulnerabilities during a pandemic influenza outbreak; to identify gaps or weaknesses in pandemic planning or in organization pandemic influenza continuity plans, policies, & procedures; and encourage public and private organizations to jointly plan for, and test, their pandemic influenza plans.

### PANDEMIC INFLUENZA EXERCISE OVERVIEW:

- Who: NY/NJ Federal Executive Boards membership and private sector
- What: Pandemic Influenza Exercise (repeated on 3 separate dates, please attend only 1 exercise)
- **Purpose:** To foster a partnership amongst Federal/private sector; increase continuity readiness under pandemic influenza conditions; and identify gaps and areas for improvement
- Scope: New York City Metropolitan Area
- When: 3 Tabletop Exercises November 19th, November 20th, & November 21st.
  7:30 am Registration
  8:00am StartEx / 12:00pm Endex
- Where: 26 Federal Plaza, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room A/B New York, NY
- **Deliverables:** Exercises; lessons learned; and after-action reports

#### PHASES OF EXERCISE:

#### 2013

- Stage 1: Table Top Pandemic Influenza Exercise 2013
- Stage 2: After Action Report

#### 2014

- Stage 3: Full Scale Pandemic Influenza Exercise 2014
- Stage 4: After Action Report
- Stage 5: Corrective Action Report via NYU Partnership (Proposed)



U.S. Department of Homeland Security Region II Jacob K. Javits Federal Office Building 26 Federal Plaza, Room 1311 New York, New York 10278

### **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 causing a loss essential personnel from the workplace for weeks or months.
- Vaccine will most likely not be available in the early stages of a pandemic.

#### **GOALS & OBJECTIVES:**

- A. Foster partnerships between public and private sector
  - Review and analyze continuity communications with stakeholders, partner agencies and/or customers
  - Encourage collaboration of best practices and strategies amongst various organizations
- B. 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 and notification for local, state, and national levels
  - Identify supply chain challenges

### C. 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

## D. Identify special considerations and materials for protecting the health and safety of employees during a pandemic outbreak

Social distancing materials Community interventions

Syndromic Surveillance www.Flu.gov

www.cdc.gov

#### **KEY PLAYERS/ PARTNERS:**

Federal Executive Board New York City FEMA Region II

Federal Executive Board Northern New Jersey Clearing House Association

**DHHS Region II** NYU (tentative)

Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association (SIFMA)

### **RSVP and For More Information -** To participate, please register at:

Tuesday, November 19th: http://pandemicinfluenza1.eventbrite.com/#

Wednesday, November 20th: http://pandemicinfluenza2.eventbrite.com/#

Thursday, November 21st: <a href="http://pandemicinfluenza3.eventbrite.com/#">http://pandemicinfluenza3.eventbrite.com/#</a>

If you have any questions regarding Pandemic Accord, please contact:

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Don't miss this opportunity to be a part of the **Pandemic Accord** continuity exercise series!



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