

PLANNING & PREPAREDNESS ARTICLES

US BIRD FLU PLANS FAILING CHILDREN, REPORT SAYS

Reuters

“U.S. plans for an influenza pandemic have failed to take into account children, who will likely be among the biggest spreaders of the disease and its most vulnerable victims, health experts stated. Federal and state governments have not stockpiled nearly enough flu-fighting drugs, and no one has laid out a coherent plan for what to do with tens of millions of schoolchildren if schools and day-care centers are closed, the experts said. And no federal policies have addressed the issue of parents who would have to choose between losing pay or caring for their children, according to the report from the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Trust for America's Health.”

<http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/N17347556.htm>

PATIENT KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDES ABOUT ANTIVIRAL MEDICATION AND VACCINATION FOR INFLUENZA

Clinical Infectious Diseases

“A recent study was released in which authors interviewed nearly 300 adult patients to assess their knowledge about influenza prevention and treatment. Patients were extremely ill informed, especially about the potential benefits of antivirals for persons at risk for complications of influenza.”

<http://www.journals.uchicago.edu/CID/journal/issues/v45n9/51042/brief/51042.abstract.html?erFrom=4163792194291483480Guest>

WHO EXPECTS PANDEMIC VACCINE CAPACITY TO SOAR

CIDRAP News

“The World Health Organization (WHO) recently estimated that by 2010 the world may be equipped to make enough pandemic influenza vaccine to immunize 4.5 billion people—vastly more than in previous projections, though still well short of the world's population of 6.7 billion.”

<http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/panflu/news/oct2307who.html>

PREPARATIONS UNDER WAY FOR BIRD FLU SEASON

Baltimore Examiner

“Masked hospital staff quickly checked in and evaluated coughing volunteers during an avian flu simulation at the University of Maryland Medical Center.”

http://www.examiner.com/a-995829~Preparations_under_way_for_bird_flu_season.html?cid=rss-Baltimore

PANDEMIC MONITOR: TOP NEWS STORIES

BI-WEEKLY SUMMARY: October 15th – October 26th

GROWING BUSINESS DEPENDENCE ON THE INTERNET

Business Roundtable

“The report analyzes the growing dependence of businesses on the internet, the implications of internet disruption and recommendations to mitigate the effects of an increasingly dependent business community. The report states ‘that increasing reliance on the Internet now places technology at the center of many fundamental business operations, making them more vulnerable to significant Internet disruptions. The report recommends that ‘CEOs must recognize that leadership is needed to ensure that company business and IT leaders are working collaboratively to determine the Internet dependencies of core business operations, associated risks and whether continuity plans properly address those risks.’ ”

http://www.businessroundtable.org/pdf/Security/BR_Internet_Business_Dependence_Report_09252007.pdf

MILK, EGGS, INFLUENZA SHOT

The Lancet

“This article describes the phenomenon of “one-stop shopping” in the U.S., which includes healthcare in addition to groceries and appliances. Companies are now installing walk-in clinics in large chain stores, such as Wal-Mart, where customers can receive basic medical care and immunizations, including flu shots. The clinics provide a convenient and inexpensive alternative to physician’s offices and emergency rooms, and could appear next in business offices as part of lifestyle management services.”

www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS014067360761592X/fulltext

FBIIC/FSSC PANDEMIC FLU EXERCISE OF 2007

World Health Organization (WHO)

“From September 24th through October 12th, the Financial Banking Information Infrastructure Committee (FBIIC) and the Financial Services Sector Coordinating Council (FSSCC) conducted a pandemic flu exercise for the financial services sector in the United States that encompassed over 2700 participants. The simulation exercise and questions have been posted for the general public. The results are anticipated to be published in January 2008.”

<http://www.fspanfluelxercise.com/exercise-info.aspx>

PLEASE NOTE: *This summary is not intended to be a comprehensive review of all pandemic influenza-related literature. Rather, it is a selection of recent publications related to pandemic influenza.*

CLINICAL ARTICLES

PANDEMIC VACCINE PROPOSAL FAVORS HEALTH WORKERS, CHILDREN

CIDRAP News

“A federal interagency working group yesterday released a draft report detailing how the government would allocate limited vaccine supplies if a severe influenza pandemic grips the United States, offering a tiered approach that flags key health and public safety personnel and children as top priorities.”

<http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/panflu/news/oct2407allocation.html>

INDONESIAN CHILD IS LATEST H5N1 FATALITY

CIDRAP News

“A health ministry official in Indonesia said yesterday that a 4-year-old girl from Banten province died Oct 22 of H5N1 avian influenza.”

<http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/avianflu/news/oct2407avian.html>

WHO GUIDELINES FOR CONTAINMENT OF A PANDEMIC CALLING FOR EXTENSIVE USE OF ANTIVIRAL PROPHYLAXIS

World Health Organization (WHO)

“The WHO has updated its guidelines for containment of a pandemic. This protocol is designed to help national authorities to stop the development of pandemic influenza when initially detected. The protocol builds on earlier versions and incorporates input from technical consultations of experts and WHO staff experienced in the areas of operational planning, outbreak response, logistics, epidemiology, laboratory diagnosis, infection control, ethics, social mobilization, and public and media communications.”

http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/guidelines/RapidContProtOct15.pdf

STUDY: COLD, DRY AIR FAVORS SPREAD OF FLU IN LAB ANIMALS

CIDRAP News

“Scientists investigating why seasons drive annual influenza epidemics have charted how low humidity and cold temperatures contribute to the spread of the disease in laboratory animals.”

<http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/panflu/news/oct1907influenza.html>