Pandemic Influenza: What’s Your Role?

Maddie Barber
Education Coordinator
Discussion

- Pandemic influenza
  - Background information
  - Timeline of general response
- Preparation steps
Pandemic Influenza

CDC definition:

An influenza pandemic is a global outbreak of a new Influenza A virus that is very different from current and recently circulating human seasonal influenza A viruses.

https://www.cdc.gov/flu/pandemic-resources/basics/index.html
Pandemic Influenza Information

- People are infected easily by the new virus
- Can occur in “waves of activity”
- Simultaneous occurrence of outbreaks
Pandemic Influenza Information

- Threats to human infrastructure
- Planning is essential
- Plans and response tailored to each pandemic
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How often does it happen?</th>
<th>Seasonal Influenza</th>
<th>Pandemic Influenza</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Happens annually and usually peaks between December and February</td>
<td>Rarely happens (three times in 20th century)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Will most people be immune?</th>
<th>Seasonal Influenza</th>
<th>Pandemic Influenza</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Usually some immunity from previous exposures and influenza vaccination</td>
<td>Most people have little or no immunity because they have no previous exposure to the virus or similar viruses</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Who is at risk for complications?</th>
<th>Seasonal Influenza</th>
<th>Pandemic Influenza</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Certain people are at high-risk for serious complications (infants, elderly, pregnant women, extreme obesity and persons with certain chronic medical conditions)</td>
<td>Healthy people also may be at high risk for serious complications</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Will a vaccine be available?</th>
<th>Seasonal Influenza</th>
<th>Pandemic Influenza</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Vaccine available for annual flu season Usually, one dose of vaccine is needed for most people</td>
<td>Vaccine may not be available in the early stages of a pandemic Two doses of vaccine may be needed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How many people could get sick and suffer complications?</th>
<th>Seasonal Influenza</th>
<th>Pandemic Influenza</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rates of medical visits, complications, hospitalizations and death can vary from low to high</td>
<td>Rates of medical visits, complications, hospitalizations and death can range from moderate to high</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Simplified Timeline of Response

Plan and respond

Ongoing response

Virus detected
Vaccination
Wrap up
Sporadic Case Detections

- Influenza A virus strain will most likely emerge in a country other than United States
- WHO will notify phase changes
- Increase surveillance for unusual outbreaks of influenza-like illness
Phases of Pandemic Influenza

PHASES 1-3
- Predominantly animal infections; few human interactions

PHASE 4
- Sustained human to human transmission

PHASES 5-6
- Widespread human infections
- Possibility of recurrent events

PHASES 1-3
- Disease activity at seasonal levels

Response Ramps Up

- Sustained human-human transmission
- Issue guidance from federal government to states and partner organizations
- Increase health messaging to public

Ways to prevent the flu

- Get a flu shot
- Wash your hands often
- Stay home if you are sick
- Cover your cough
Pandemic Declared

CDC Preparedness and response framework for novel influenza A virus pandemics:
Vaccination Campaign

- Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices make recommendations
- Food and Drug Administration approves influenza A vaccine(s)
- Preparation for vaccine distribution
Vaccination Begins: What We Know

1. A vaccine will be created by manufactures

2. Vaccine doses will be allocated to states

3. Vaccine doses will be shipped to jurisdictions

4. Vaccination of priority groups will occur first

5. As more vaccine become available, more vaccine will be distributed and administered
Ongoing Response Activities

- Continue communication with patients/public
- Continue vaccination with increased supply of vaccine
- Continue surveillance for additional waves of activity
Activity Subsides

- Disease activities at seasonal levels
- Return of normal social interaction
- Review and revise plans
How can your clinic prepare?
How can your clinic prepare?

Your clinic is already preparing!
Identifying High-Risk Groups

*How are high-risk patients in your clinic identified and reminded about the flu vaccine each year?*
Identifying High-Risk Groups

How are high-risk patients in your clinic identified and reminded about the flu vaccine each year?

- Identified high-risk groups for seasonal influenza
- High-risk patients (and everyone over 6 months) should be vaccinated against influenza each year
Seasonal Influenza High-Risk Groups

• Children younger than five
• Adults 65+
• Pregnant women
• American Indians and Alaskan Natives
• People who have certain medical conditions including:
  • Asthma
  • Neurological and neurodevelopmental conditions
  • Chronic lung disease
  • Heart disease
  • Blood disorders
  • Endocrine disorders
  • Kidney disorders
  • Liver disorders
  • Metabolic disorders
  • Weakened immune system due to disease of medication
  • People younger than 19 years of age who are receiving long-term aspirin therapy
  • People with extreme obesity (body mass index of 40 or more)
Storing Vaccine

Is your clinic’s vaccine storage unit at maximum capacity?
Storing Vaccine

Is your clinic’s vaccine storage unit at maximum capacity?

- Adequate space in storage units
- Temperature monitoring procedures
- Pre-identified back-up storage unit locations
Vaccine Inventory

How does your clinic track vaccine doses?
Vaccine Inventory

How does your clinic track vaccine doses?

- Vaccine inventory in imMTrax
  - Record and report doses administered
- Patient lists can be generated
  - Electronic health record
  - imMTrax
  - Manually
Communicating Information

*How does your clinic communicate information to patients?*
Communicating Information

**How does your clinic communicate information to patients?**

- Remind and recall patients for additional dose
- Coincide messaging with partner organizations
Other

- Plan, coordinate or volunteer at off-site flu clinics
- Established partnerships in your community
  - Annual collaboration to vaccinate against seasonal influenza
State Activities

- **Working with Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program**
  - Examples: participating in statewide vaccination exercises and state pandemic influenza plan

- **Working with Local Health Departments**
  - Examples: identify how partners plan/advertise community immunization projects and identify pharmacies as complementary immunization providers

- **Working with Vaccines for Children Providers**
  - Examples: vaccine storage and handling and imMTrax data entry
In Summary

- Response activities for the next influenza pandemic could be very similar or different from previous influenza pandemics
- Preparing for the next influenza pandemic is on-going and important
- Everyone has a role in preparing and responding for an influenza pandemic
Questions?

mbarber@mt.gov

444-4560