



WHAT IS PANDEMIC FLU?

Pandemic flu is a worldwide outbreak of illness that occurs when a new influenza virus appears and spreads easily from person to person. A pandemic flu could happen at any time, and would affect people in Wisconsin and around the world.

The current bird flu virus, H5N1, may change to become a new virus that can spread easily from human to human, causing a flu pandemic. But, pandemic flu does not have to come from bird flu.

Wisconsin Preparation Efforts

- Wisconsin is working with Federal partners in monitoring the bird flu virus for changes that may make it spread from human to human easily.
- Wisconsin is preparing for the possibility of a pandemic, making plans for increased medical visits, and stockpiling supplies that may be used to treat the symptoms of pandemic flu.
- Wisconsin's Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection and the Department of Natural Resources are working with Wisconsin health departments in case bird flu becomes an illness that could spread from person to person.

Steps You Can Take to Prepare

- Learn more about pandemic flu at <http://pandemic.wisconsin.gov> or www.pandemicflu.gov.
- Make a plan that includes:
 - Childcare if schools close
 - What you need to care for relatives in your home
 - What to do if your workplace needs to close
- Work with your relatives, neighbors and community with their preparedness efforts.
- Create an emergency kit:
 - Water and non-perishable food
 - First aid supplies and prescription medication
 - Radio and extra batteries
 - Contact list and important medical information

Protect Yourself and Your Family

- Practice good health habits:
 - Wash your hands regularly
 - Cough and sneeze into your upper sleeve or into a tissue to keep from spreading germs
- Stay informed to news broadcasts and articles, and check <http://pandemic.wisconsin.gov> or www.pandemicflu.gov for the most up-to-date information about pandemic flu.