Avian Flu (H5N1) Information & Statistics

The World Health Organization ("Who") has currently identified the Avian Influenza virus at Alert Phase 3.

Inter-pandemic phase New virus in animals, no human cases	Low risk of human cases	1
	Higher risk of human cases	2
Pandemic alert New virus causes human cases	No or very limited human-to-human transmission	3
	Evidence of increased human-to-human transmission	4
	Evidence of significant human-to-human transmission	5
Pandemic	Efficient and sustained human-to-human transmission	6

Escalation points are:

Alert Phase 4

- Intensive education on mitigation strategies that employees can use at work and at home
- Update all employee contact information, phone, cell phone, home email
- Conduct training on text messaging for use if phone services are overloaded

Alert Phase 5

- Mandatory mitigation strategies at work (hand washing, wipes, personal space cleaning)
- Implement pre-decided communications to customers and vendors about what will happen in **Alert Phase 6**.

Alert Phase 6

- Mandatory mitigation strategies escalated (masks, gloves as appropriate)
- Implement social distancing

    a. Restricted access to work area by outsiders and vendors
    b. Cancel all face-to-face meetings; concentrate almost exclusively on customer service functions
    c. Implement shift work to thin out the population
    d. Send home non-essential personnel and those who can work from home

- Implement a pre-decided HR policy on what to do if a family member is ill
- Implement a pre-decided HR policy on what to do if schools are closed
- Implement a pre-decided HR policy on what to do about pay for people sent home and for people required to work

1. There have been 10 know flu pandemics over the past 300 years.
2. The last flu pandemic in the U.S. was the Spanish flu of 1918.
3. About 2.5 percent of the world's population died from the Spanish flu.
4. The mortality rate of the avian flu is significantly stronger than its "kissing cousin", the Spanish flu. Mortality rates for the avian flu are 55 percent.
5. The avian flu is the most powerful influenza virus seen in modern human history.
6. Antivirals such as Tamiflu will most likely not be available. If available, expect very short supplies.
7. Manufacturers worldwide can only produce 250 to 300 million doses of vaccine at a rate of 5 million a week. Enough to vaccinate just 1 percent of the U.S. population per week.
8. Tamiflu must be administered within the first 48 hours of flu onset and given twice daily for at least 5 consecutive days.
9. Vaccinations could take between 9 – 10 months
10. Current data for H5N1 infection indicate an incubation period ranging from two to eight days and possibly as long as 17 days.
11. Expect at least 30% of the employee body workforce to be out sick at any given time.
12. The pandemic may last as long as eighteen months over three separate waves; mortality and morbidity will increase and decrease in spurts.
13. The avian flu is currently isolated to poultry and other migratory birds.
14. Bird to human transmission is on the increase with six studies already performed involving over 5,000 close contacts of the virus.
15. Human to human transmission has not yet occurred and is currently rare.
16. Health officials view human to human transmission not if, but when.
17. Initial symptoms include a high fever, usually with a temperature higher than 38^{o}C, and influenza-like symptoms. Diarrhoea, vomiting, abdominal pain, chest pain, and bleeding from the nose and gums have also been reported as early symptoms in some patients.

Supply Chain and Economic Disruption

1. Eighty percent of all the drugs used in the U.S. are outsourced from other countries.
2. Due to just-in-time inventory and channel supply processes, the supply and value chains of American businesses will be negatively impacted by the virus, causing shortages on all commercial products and services.
3. Shortage of goods may result in panic buying behavior.
4. Asian Development Bank; Asia could lose $282 billion or 6.5 percent of their GNP.
5. Bank of Montreal; A dramatic slow down in the economy equal to that of the Great Depression.
6. Nottingham University; the UK could suffer an 8.5 percent drop in GNP.
7. U.S. estimates; current estimates of revenue losses in the United States.are calculated at $675 billion.
8. Approximately 15 percent of businesses have begun any preparation for the impact of the illness.
9. Approximately 73 percent of businesses that faced a major disruption of 10 days or more either had to close or were severely damaged.

10. Only 5 percent of businesses have an active business continuity plan that can support on-going operations and mitigate the effects of an avian flu pandemic inside or against the business.
11. Be prepared to do more with less. Plan and test your business continuity and disaster recovery plans against the "40/20 rule". Where the business must be able to recover from an interruption event by running on 40 percent of its applications utilizing 20 percent of its employees. Recovery must be done within the defined timeframes dictated by the business.
12. Businesses will likely have less than 12 weeks of warning from the time the pandemic is announced before it reaches the U.S.
13. Telecommunications and internet infrastructure will be severely tested due to massive increases in remote workers.

Public Health Authorities

During a state of public health emergency, public health authorities are authorized to use every available means to prevent transmission of infectious disease. Public health authorities have comprehensive controls over social and business restrictions. Far more restrictive than the Patriot Act.

Examples of powers given to public health authorities include:

- Close, direct, evacuate or decontaminate any facility or material that is reasonably believed to endanger the public health
- Control or limit egress to and from any affected public area, the movement of persons within the area, and the occupancy of the premises therein
- Perform physical examinations and/or tests as necessary for the diagnosis or treatment of individuals
- Vaccinate persons as protection against infectious or contagious disease(s)
- Collect specimens from both living and deceased persons
- Treat persons exposed to or infected with disease
- Isolate or quarantine individuals or groups of individuals – including those who refuse medical examinations, testing, or vaccination

Informational Web Sites

http://www.who.int/en/
http://www.cdc.gov/
http://www.hhs.gov/
http://www.fema.org
http://www.proem.com/disasterblog.html
http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=4949542&sourceCode=gaw