

# City of Dallas

## Pandemic Flu Plans

---

- Part I – Specific Pandemic Influenza issues for Public Safety Departments
- Part II - Continuity of Operations and Government Plans





# Planning Committee

---

- Primary – Police, Fire-Rescue, Emergency Management, Dallas County Health & Human Services
- Secondary – all other departments have been contacted to submit information



# Dallas County

## Health and Human Services

---

- Lead agency for any public health emergency response
- Coordinates with all cities within the County (City of Dallas – primary contacts: EHS and OEM)
- Coordinate with Department of State Health Services, and federal agencies CDC, DHHS
- Ongoing disease surveillance and early detection
- Influenza A/H5 laboratory testing capacity
- Anti-viral distribution and allocation (purchased for City of Dallas police, fire, and EMS)



# Dallas County

## Health and Human Services

---

- Extensive public education program including a full-time RN who has worked with several Dallas departments
- Web site:  
[http://www.dallascounty.org/department/hhservices/services/publichealthalert/pandemic\\_influenza.html](http://www.dallascounty.org/department/hhservices/services/publichealthalert/pandemic_influenza.html)
- DPD and DFRD have also developed PowerPoint and video training programs on safety and response procedures to deal with influenza patients



# Challenges

---

- History, and the national Center for Disease Control analysis, estimate that we may lose 30-40% of the workforce during a pandemic influenza
- Obviously that would strain Public Safety operations as well as all City services
- There is a limited supply of vaccine or antiviral medications



# Challenges con't.

---

- There may be a chain reaction in the supply of critical resources such as:
  - Food, Water
  - Fuel
  - Electricity and other utilities
  - Medical supplies - Including protective equipment for 1<sup>st</sup> Responders such as goggles, N-95 masks, and non-latex gloves



# Recommendations

---

- Identify and maintain as many “critical services” to our citizens as possible
- Implement a mandatory training and infection control program for “critical employees”
  - We have both an in-house produced video and PowerPoint training programs ready (in English and Spanish).



# Medication Distribution Plan

---

- There are Federal, State, and City level plans to distribute vaccine or antiviral medications to 1<sup>st</sup> Responders and critical employees
- These medications are currently very limited  
(and expensive - \$19 each)
- We participated in a statewide Strategic National Stockpile exercise to distribute these meds last year



# Public Safety Concerns



- Employees may be sick themselves, tending for sick family members or - with schools closed - staying home to take care of children.



# Public Safety Concerns

---

- EMS – and the entire medical community – would be overwhelmed with patients
- The CDC projects a pandemic influenza will directly affect 15-30% of the population with signs & symptoms (180,000-300,000 people in Dallas)
- In Dallas, thousands would be hospitalized, or home bound (and thousands could die). Up to 500,000 could be either sick or caring for those who are.



# Public Safety Concerns

---

EMS call volume will probably exceed our capacity to respond in the traditional fashion. We could average 8,000 EMS calls per day – our current call volume is just under 500 per day

Police calls would increase as well primarily with increased crime reports and citizen assists



# Public Safety Concerns

---

- We would implement a Medical Directed “Call Triage” for our Dispatch to:
  - Assign priority calls
  - Modify the response as needed
  - Recommend alternative plans for EMS transport or Police response by developing contingencies for providing city-wide coverage with limited personnel.

# Part II: All-Hazard Continuity Of Operations Planning



---

- Continuity of Operations Planning (COOP) is done to assure that we are able to continue providing a stable government and critical services during a pandemic influenza or any other specific threat, hazard, incident, catastrophe, or disaster.
- It is our “worst case scenario” plan.

# What is COOP?

## (Continuity of Operations Planning)



---

- COOP answers these primary questions concerning ANY long term incident that may effect city operations:
  1. What are the “critical or essential” jobs?
  2. What are each department’s most important activities?
  3. Who will be in charge if top leadership is not available?
    - What is the “line of succession”?
    - How are they contacted?
  4. Which services, documents, and information are most vital to maintain?

# What is COOP?

## (Continuity of Operations Planning)

---

### **And these:**

1. What other resources will be required to maintain each City service?
  - Food, water, fuel, medical supplies....etc.
  - Intangibles such as passwords to PC's
- How long can your department wait to restart its essential functions?
  - 12 hours? A day? Three days? Essential functions cannot be disrupted?



# Objectives of COOP Planning

---

- To ensure the continued performance of “critical jobs”, essential functions, and major operations during a disaster event.
- To minimize any damage or loss of critical processes and information.
- To identify essential services and their staffing and resource needs: Zoo, Aviation, Water, Public Safety, etc.



# Objectives of COOP Planning



---

- To ensure succession to office in the event that a disruption renders the agency leadership unavailable to perform their responsibilities.
- To reduce disruptions to operations and to anticipate what might occur and plan to deal with it despite social distancing and other precautionary requirements..
- To ensure that agencies have alternate facilities from which to perform their essential functions during a disaster event.

# Objectives of COOP Planning



---

- To protect essential facilities, equipment, vital records, and other assets.
- To achieve a timely and orderly recovery from a disaster.
- To identify a training and exercise program to validate COOP plans.
- To complete individual department plans by Sept 2007 and an overall City plan by December 2007.

# Conclusion: The City of Dallas Continuity of Operations Program



---

- It is built from the “ground up”.
  - We are working with each City department to create a specific COOP plan to meet their needs and continue the City’s essential functions.
- We will be regularly testing, training, and exercising the City COOP Plan to determine gaps and weaknesses.
  - This will also ensure all City employees and citizens that the City will continue to operate despite potentially substantial damage to its infrastructure.



# Conclusion: The City of Dallas Continuity of Operations Program

---

- Special thanks to Carol Lawrence, RN of the DFRD and to the DPD Personnel and Development Division for background information and training resources
- We have representatives of these departments available:
  - Dallas Police Department
  - Dallas Fire-Rescue Department
  - Office of Emergency Management
  - Environmental and Health Services
  - Dallas County Health and Human Services
- Questions?