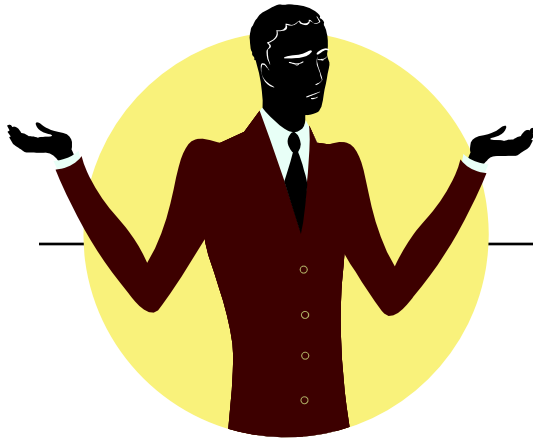




“So what if I get the flu?”

Pandemic Influenza Planning Challenges for EMS Agencies, Providers, and Their Families

*Presentation Developed by:
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Introductions





Presentation Objectives

- **Introduce Participants to latest general pandemic flu information**
- **Look at possible affects on nation, community, department, family and self**



Presentation Objectives

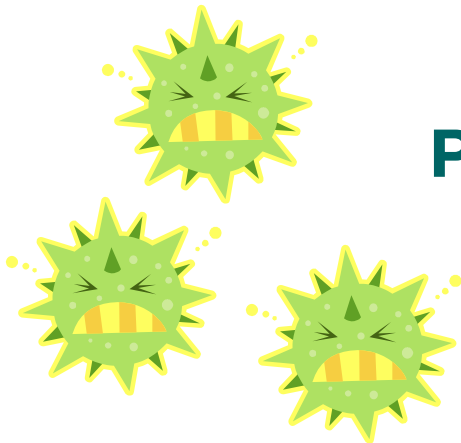
- **Introduce participants to USDOT planning guidance for EMS agencies / PSAPs**
- **Engage participants in participating in critical thinking and scenarios that promote agency and family planning for pandemic flu response**



Background

○ **Pandemic Flu**

- virulent human influenza A virus that causes global outbreak of serious illness in humans



Pandemic Flu vs. Seasonal Flu



○ **How is it spread?**

- Although it may not present in the same fashion as season flu it will be primarily transmitted from person to person via large virus-laden droplets. (e.g. infected person who cough or sneeze)



○ **Likelihood of an Influenza Pandemic**

- Three Conditions must be met:
 - A new influenza virus must emerge for which there is little or no human immunity
 - It must infect humans and cause illness; and
 - It must spread easily and sustainably among humans



○ **Pandemics have occurred intermittently for centuries**



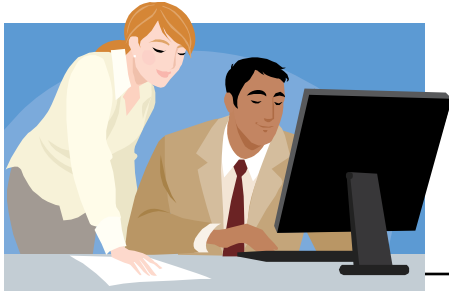
Characteristics of the Three Pandemics of the 20th Century

Date and Common Name	Area of Emergence	Influenza A Virus Subtype	Estimated Case Fatality Rate	World Wide Mortality	Age Groups Most Affected
1918-1919 “Spanish Flu”	Unclear	H1N1	2-3%	20-50 Million	Young Adults
1957-1958 “Asian Flu”	Southern China	H2N2	<0.2%	1-4 Million	Children
1968-1969 “Hong Kong Flu”	Southern China	H3N2	<0.2%	1-4 Million	All Age Groups

Potential Impacts

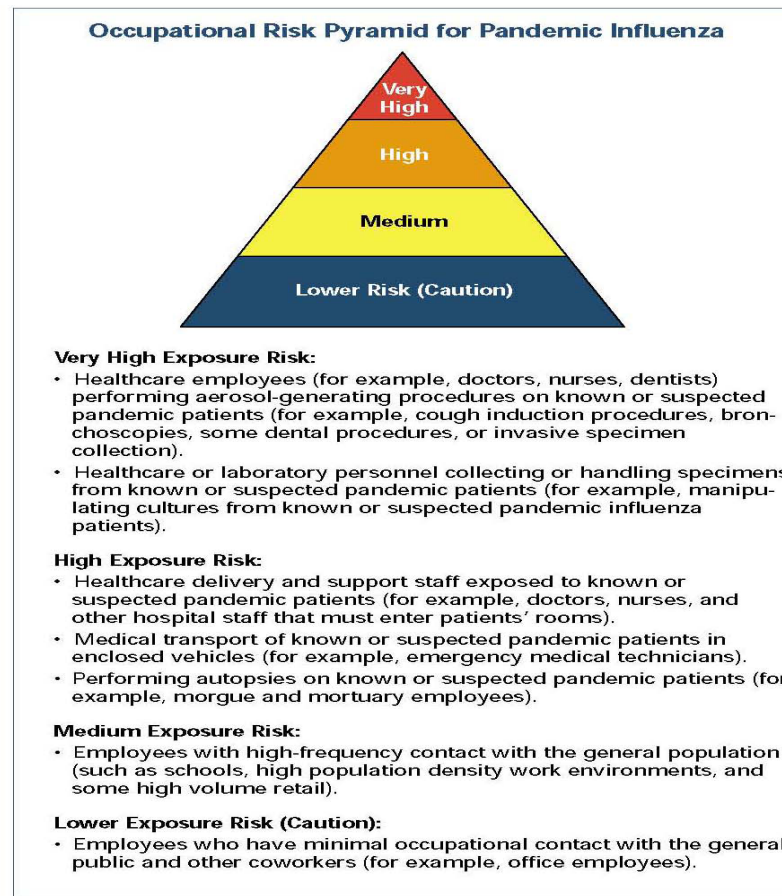
- **Rapid Worldwide Spread**
- **Health Care Systems Overloaded**
- **Medical Supplies Inadequate**
- **Economic and Social Disruption**





As part of an effort to prepare for pandemic influenza, State and local EMS and 9-1-1 planners will want to predict and plan for how such a disease outbreak might impact their community

OSHA Risk Pyramid



DHS Information

Pandemic Influenza

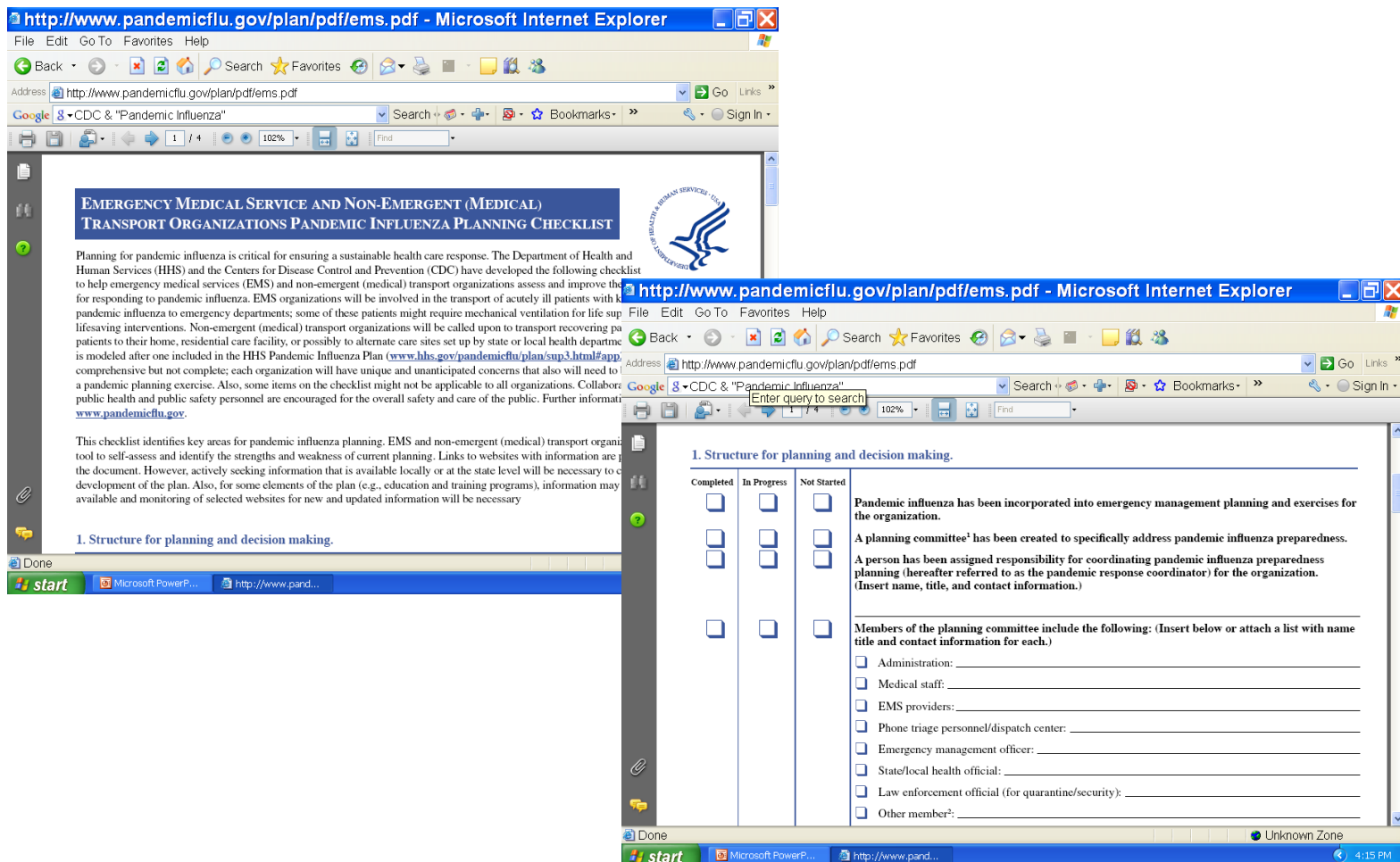
Best Practices and Model Protocols

April 2007



**Homeland
Security**

HHS & CDC Checklist



EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE AND NON-EMERGENT (MEDICAL) TRANSPORT ORGANIZATIONS PANDEMIC INFLUENZA PLANNING CHECKLIST

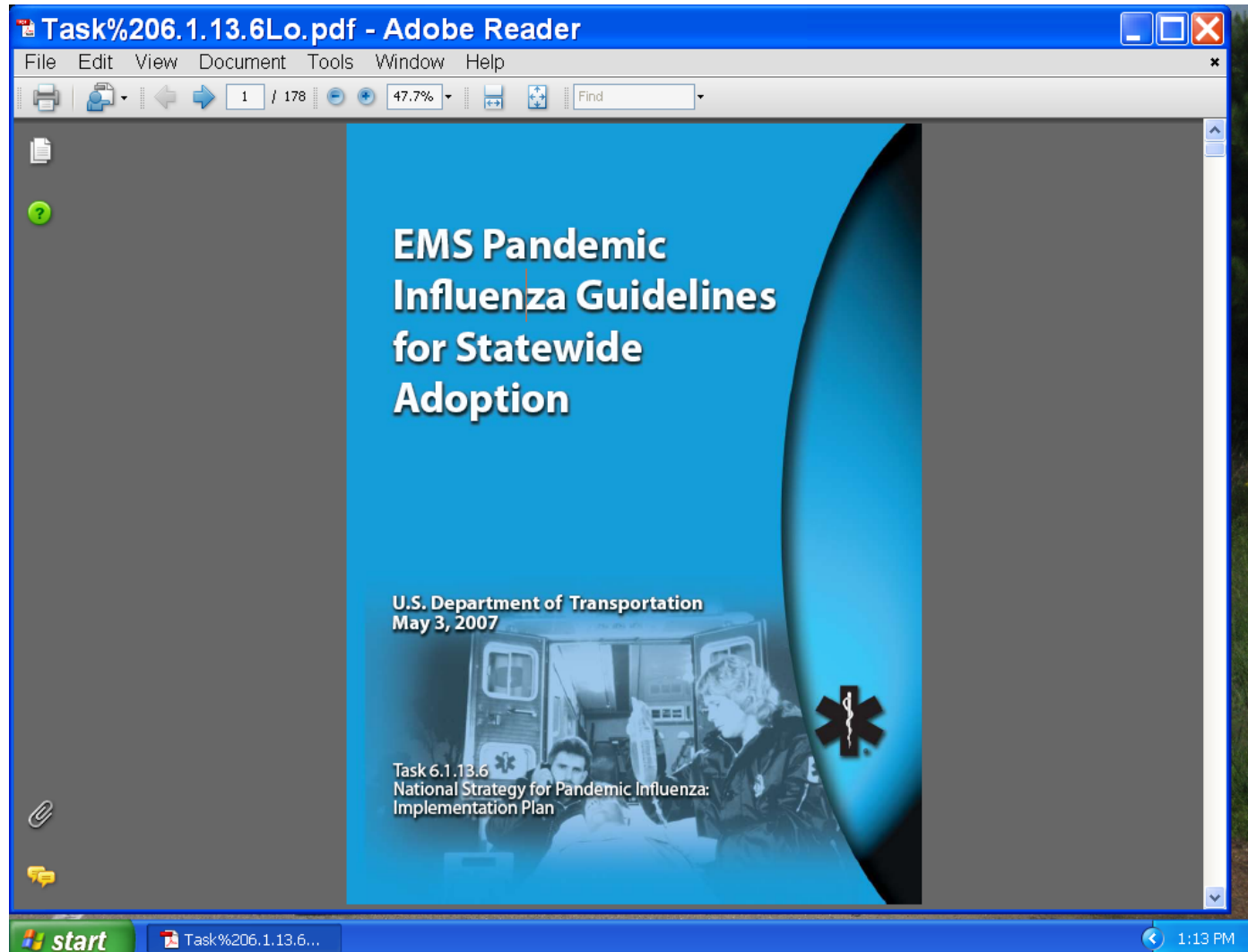
Planning for pandemic influenza is critical for ensuring a sustainable health care response. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have developed the following checklist to help emergency medical services (EMS) and non-emergent (medical) transport organizations assess and improve their response to pandemic influenza. EMS organizations will be involved in the transport of acutely ill patients with life-threatening conditions to emergency departments; some of these patients might require mechanical ventilation for life support. Non-emergent (medical) transport organizations will be called upon to transport recovering patients to their home, residential care facility, or possibly to alternate care sites set up by state or local health departments. This checklist is modeled after one included in the HHS Pandemic Influenza Plan (www.hhs.gov/pandemicflu/plan/sup3.html#app). It is comprehensive but not complete; each organization will have unique and unanticipated concerns that also will need to be addressed in a pandemic planning exercise. Also, some items on the checklist might not be applicable to all organizations. Collaborate with your public health and public safety personnel are encouraged for the overall safety and care of the public. Further information is available at www.pandemicflu.gov.

This checklist identifies key areas for pandemic influenza planning. EMS and non-emergent (medical) transport organizations can use this tool to self-assess and identify the strengths and weakness of current planning. Links to websites with information are provided throughout the document. However, actively seeking information that is available locally or at the state level will be necessary to develop the plan. Also, for some elements of the plan (e.g., education and training programs), information may be available and monitoring of selected websites for new and updated information will be necessary.

1. Structure for planning and decision making.

Completed	In Progress	Not Started	
☐	☐	☐	Pandemic influenza has been incorporated into emergency management planning and exercises for the organization.
☐	☐	☐	A planning committee ¹ has been created to specifically address pandemic influenza preparedness.
☐	☐	☐	A person has been assigned responsibility for coordinating pandemic influenza preparedness planning (hereafter referred to as the pandemic response coordinator) for the organization. (Insert name, title, and contact information.)
☐	☐	☐	Members of the planning committee include the following: (Insert below or attach a list with name title and contact information for each.)
			☐ Administration: _____
			☐ Medical staff: _____
			☐ EMS providers: _____
			☐ Phone triage personnel/dispatch center: _____
			☐ Emergency management officer: _____
			☐ State/local health official: _____
			☐ Law enforcement official (for quarantine/security): _____
			☐ Other member: _____

DOT (NHTSA) Planning Template



What about EMS in Virginia?





Challenges

- **Sustaining Essential Functions**
 - **Human Capital**
 - **Supplies**
- 
- **Leadership and Delegation of Authority**
 - **Communication**
 - **Patient management**
 - **Others**



Are we prepared?

- **Does your agency have a working plan?**
 - Updated?
 - Exercised?
- **Coordinated with outside vendors / contractors?**
- **Does everyone know the plan?**

How do we protect our Agencies?

- **COOP / Response Planning**
- **Employee Protection**
- **Family Protection and Education**

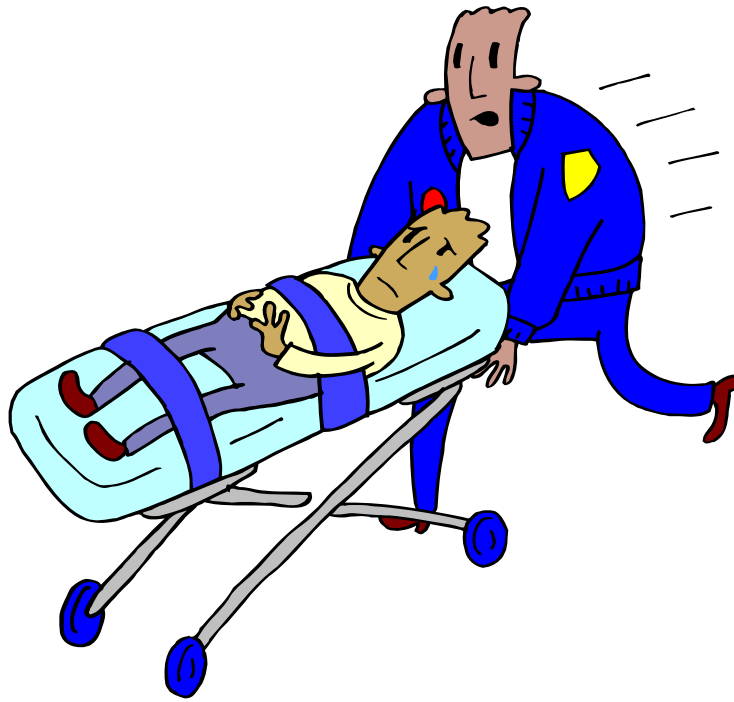


Response Planning

- **What do we already know about the pandemic flu?**



Protecting Employees



What about families?

Consider this. . .



Will it get worse?



“The only thing predictable about influenza is unpredictability.”



Where to get additional information

- www.ready.gov
- www.pandemicflu.gov
- <http://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3327pandemic.pdf>
- <http://www.nhtsa.gov/people/injury/ems/PandemicInfluenzaGuidelines/>
- <http://www.nhtsa.gov/people/injury/ems/PandemicInfluenza/>
- <http://www.nasemso.org/Resources/documents/H1N1InfluenzaAPrimerJune122009.pdf>



“Pandemics are global in nature, but their impact is local. When the next pandemic strikes, as it surely will, it is likely to touch the lives of every individual, family and community. Our task is to make sure that when it happens, we will be a Nation prepared.”

Michael O. Leavitt

Secretary, US Department of Health and Human
Services 2005-09



Remember



Questions?

**Thank you for attending
today's presentation!**

