

Oshkosh Flu Plan

“Pandemi Flu Group” • University of Wisconsin Oshkosh

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3. Timeline for preparations for each of these areas
4. Designated Coordinator in Charge from OBH

Specific Planning

In order to prepare the most effective pandemic flu plan planning will then continue in a more specific fashion among each of the vital groups selected during the initial information gathering session's lead by the Oshkosh Board of Health.

o The Oshkosh Board of Health will introduce the idea of planning for a pandemic flu and oversee initial planning stages to be certain that the group is focusing its attention on the needs of the community during a flu crisis.

Basic Services

- Electric, gas, telephone, water, and waste management
- Help keep basic services will remain functional

Health Care:

- Hospitals, nurses, and medical technicians.
- Hospitals:
 1. Establishing secure flu wards
 2. Uniform way to assess each patient
 - All healthcare personnel:
 - Training in proper handling of patients, specimens, and the dead.
 - Order of giving out vaccines, if available

Schools

- Implement sanitary practices in classrooms
- Schools must decide to send a child home
- Superintendent should make plans for closing schools
- Using schools as relief for overcrowded hospitals

Emergency Services

- Police must plan for the possibility of civil unrest
 1. Protect drug shipments, manage crowds, or direct traffic
 - Fire departments may be called upon to help police
 - Paramedics will also be needed to transport the sick
 - Education on how to stay safe while working with the infected, ie special washing procedures

Communication

- Local media and city council representatives
- Newspapers, radio, and television
 1. Inform the public about the risks of a pandemic
 2. What the city is doing to prepare.
 - Emergency radio station
 1. Areas of Oshkosh to avoid
 2. Where to go if you have the flu
 3. Availability of emergency supplies
 4. Which stores and schools are open

Businesses

- Businesses must be assessed for importance in closing
- Grocery stores and pharmacies
 1. How best to ration extra room for supplies
 - Gas stations prepare for a run on gas
 - Funeral homes need to be ready for a high volume of dead
 1. Stock of caskets
 2. Emergency employees

Each group will meet on its own to select a leader (“... **Preparations Manager**”)

- Report back to the Coordinator in Charge as to the group's progress, requirements (money, training, supplies) as well as the group's opinion on further planning.
- The role of manager would continue during a pandemic as a way to coordinate the entire community effort through the Coordinator in Charge and to avoid miscommunications and repetition of duties.

Role of the Media

In the event of a flu pandemic, the media plays a critical role in the fight against the virus. Providing information to the people within an outbreak area can save thousands within the city and potentially millions across the nation.

Television networks, radio stations, and newspapers should provide information on:

- What the flu entails, the causative agent
- Common symptoms
- Proper modes of action to avoid contact with the disease.
- Critical supplies (see section 1)
- Location of an infection
- Proper “cough etiquette”
- Where to go if possibly an evacuation is enforced.

Community Communication

In the event of a flu outbreak in Oshkosh and the surrounding communities in Winnebago County, controlling vital supplies is essential in containing the flu.

Critical Supplies include

- Medical masks capable of covering mouth and nose
- Gloves of all sizes
- Protective coveralls
- Caskets
- Bottled water
- Common pharmaceuticals for patients
- Antiviral medication (influenza vaccine)
- Hand sanitizer and bleach
- Disposable dishes/utensils

These critical supplies should be stored at government buildings such as:

- Winnebago County Court House, health department, and sheriff department
- Oshkosh Police Dept.
- Aurora Medical Center and Mercy Medical Center

In the situation that a vaccine is available for the public, security/protection will be needed to ensure that proper distribution is achieved.

Locations for vaccine storage

- Aurora Medical Center and Mercy Medical Center
- Local clinics in the surrounding communities

Since these supplies are considered very important it is necessary that the supplies be guarded. The locations listed above should have the following personnel as acting security:

- Oshkosh Police Officials
- Winnebago County Sheriff officials and local police for Omro, Ncenah, and Menasha storage locations
- Private security agencies

Security personnel should be equipped with protective biohazard clothing, which may include (1):

- Gloves/ masks
- Gowns/ lab coats
- Face shields
- Resuscitation bags
- Fully encapsulated protective coveralls

All can be purchased at: <http://www.allsafetyproducts.biz/>

Meals will need to be provided to health care workers and infected individuals. If volunteers are available, these people can deliver meals to those in need. If no volunteers, the Community Servings could possibly be recruited to serve meals. This service is dedicated to providing free meals to people homebound with life-threatening illnesses, unable to shop or cook for themselves. If this could be developed here it would help in preparing for this pandemic (2).

A link to their site is: <http://www.servings.org/meals>

Quarantine Measures, Travel, and Crime Prevention

If an outbreak were to occur in Oshkosh, Oshkosh would have to be Quarantine, this would include neighboring towns in the County of Winnebago.

Enforcement

- o Roadblocks and quarantine sign should be posted
- o Man power is needed to physically guard the closed Highways, Railways, River ways, Airway, and Roads leading into and out of Oshkosh
- o Army National Guard would have to be involved
- o There should be at least two soldiers or police/fire persons guarding each entryway

Who can travel into and out of Oshkosh

- DPH-Director or Official overseeing the disease outbreak
- Health workers coming from outside the city not showing symptoms of the disease
- Truck drivers driving supplies to Oshkosh are not allowed to leave their truck. Healthy individuals will unload the supply
- Those who dwell in Oshkosh but work outside the city, healthy or not, will not be allowed to leave

Oshkosh Curfew

- A mandatory curfew of 11 pm will be implemented to prevent public gatherings and will be enforced by the police and fire departments

Business

- Police will patrol the city constantly
- Riot police and the Army National Guard should be ready to put down riots if needed

People in Rural Areas

- People in surrounding rural areas can choose to stock up on supplies and remain in their residences
- They also could have the option to go to a designated area shelter
- After a certain date, people from rural areas would not be able to enter a quarantined city.

Public Gathering Policies

During a pandemic the rights of the individual must be weighed against the good of the city as a whole. Mandatory restrictions on group meetings must be in place to provide the best protection against disease spread. Here is a list of gatherings and gathering places that may need to be prohibited or closed during a pandemic:

- Schools

1. Public and Private K-12
2. University of Wisconsin:

Closing a university provides unique challenges pertaining to students living on campus. The best plan appears to be sending students that are not ill home as soon as possible after a threat has been detected. Those that are ill should remain on campus in a quarantined environment. This would reduce the expense on the university during a long pandemic.

- Library
- Churches and religious gatherings
- Civic gatherings

1. Town council meetings
2. Parades
3. Holiday celebrations
- Entertainment venues such as movie theaters and sports' fields
- Parks
- After school programs
- Child care facilities:

In the case of families where both parents have essential roles in the pandemic response, it may be necessary to find a replacement for one parent so they can stay home with their children or stagger the workloads of the parents so that one is always home.

- Bus service
- Visiting nursing homes
- Shopping centers and non essential businesses (excluding grocery stores and gas stations)

Hospitals

Mercy Medial Center

- Medical Staff: 300
- Total number of beds available: 157
- Isolation Ward: Mercy Medical Center in Oshkosh currently has 12 rooms designated as isolation rooms.
- Ventilators: 8 (7 + 1 transport ventilator)

According to the information provided by Mercy Medical Center, they are vastly under prepared to respond to a pandemic involving hundreds to thousands of patients that would require the extensive care.



Isolation Hospitals

Based on the abilities of Oshkosh area hospitals to manage the number of cases, Oshkosh would most certainly need an isolation hospital. The Park Plaza Hotel would serve the best as an isolation hospital because of the amount of open room it has for convention space, which could be filled with beds for patients. The plaza also has 179 individual rooms that could be used to house medical workers and patients that require the greatest amount of care. In the event that this space turned out to not be enough, other locations could be looked into. Even if more space were available, its use would be limited by the number of people available to care for patients and the availability of equipment.

Needed Equipment at Alternative Sites:

- Beds or cots with clean linen between patients
- Electric and hand powered ventilators
- Rubber gloves
- Masks for workers and patients
- Backup power sources
 - Generators, batteries and flashlights
- Kitchen equipment
 - Anti- viral
 - Medication to relieve symptoms
 - Syringes (if needed)
- Diagnostic equipment
 - Flu tests
 - Proper storage for tests and samples
- Maintenance
- Brooms, mops, and cleaning supplies (bleach)
- Washing machines and dryers
- Proper disposal for human and medical waste
- Body storage until they can be removed

Workforce

In order to staff alternative sites, the doctors and nurses that work at Oshkosh hospitals and clinics would be rationed to other sites. Local people would be asked to volunteer to help care for the sick by cleaning, preparing food, and running errands so doctors and nurses can focus their attention on patient care.

Individual Preparedness

Emergency Preparedness Kits are recommended to contain a week's supply of the following:

- Cold medicine
- Aspirin
- Latex gloves
- Local Emergency numbers
- First aid kit
- Ice packs
- Mask



Enough food should be stockpiled to last 5 to 6 weeks while meeting the basic needs of your family or others that may be with you:

- Dried foods
 1. Crackers
 2. Cereal
- Canned foods
 1. Tuna
 2. Pasta
 3. Vegetables
- Dehydrated foods
 1. Powdered milk
 2. Raisins and other fruit
- Sports Drinks (Gatorade)
- Hand operated can and bottle opener



Stockpiling water

A gallon of water per person per day is the recommended amount to stockpile. It is also important to keep in mind the water requirement the foods you have stockpiled require. Be sure to factor this into the amount of water you have on hand.

Miscellaneous items

- Flashlight
- Radio (batteries)
- Prescription medications
- Cash
- Latex gloves
- Garbage bags
- Bleach
- Hand sanitizers
- Cleaning products
- If no electricity, generator and gas for generator fire extinguisher
- Filtration system for water, if it will work



Preventing the flu: Masks

To help in the prevention of the flu a mask must seal around the face. They can be purchased at health supply stores, industrial supply stores with a box containing an average of 10 masks costing an average of \$16.34. Be aware that masks do have a shelf life. The N95 is 10 years depending on the model of mask.

Emergency Workforce Team

Oshkosh Board of Health (OBH)

- The leading force in planning for a flu pandemic as well as caring out that plan
- Meet with state health officials, the county board of health, and local doctors and authorities on the subjects of pandemics, emergency planning, and community preparedness
 1. Discuss the probable courses a pandemic would take in the Oshkosh area
 2. Decide on vital areas of the community that must be kept functioning

Pharmacies and Health Plans

It is important to start planning for this issue by taking precautions and taking in active role in the health safety of patients requiring medications.

Measures to Take

- A current check up of health status
- Set up a stockpile of medications
- Local pharmacies should stock up on certain basic prescriptions for common disease (heart, asthma, diabetes)
- Explore your employers medical benefits

One way of getting a long term supply if you cannot get it from your doctor is to visit the web site United Pharmacies (), which offers many prescriptions confidentially with no consultation fees or prescription. Another option is to purchase medication from other countries through The National Association of Boards of Pharmacy® (NABP®) which is currently helping hurricane Katrina victims. NABP is compiling pharmacist names provided by state boards of pharmacy and verifying them through the Association's Disciplinary Clearinghouse to be sure they are legitimate.

People of high-risk groups that will have special needs will include:

- Health care workers and public health personnel
- Persons responsible for community safety and security (Police, Firefighters, Paramedics, etc.)
- Persons of any age with high-risk medical conditions (diabetes, heart problems, cancer, HIV/AIDS)
- Pregnant women
- Persons in nursing homes and other long-term care facilities

Winnebago County should stockpile its own supply of Tamiflu or any other anti-influenza drugs. The Winnebago County Health department should inform all hospitals and clinics on proper time to handout medications during a pandemic.

References

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3. Health Division. <http://www.ci.oshkosh.wi.us/Health/Health/htm> April 12, 2006.
4. Board of Health Meeting Friday, March 3, 2006. <http://www.ci.winnebago.wi.us/counyclerk/docs/bh060303.pdf> April 12, 2006.

