
Protecting Justice From A Pandemic Flu Outbreak: Preparation

Presentation by:

Judge Linda L. Chezem
(Retired)

Health and Human Services Secretary Mike Leavitt

“Avian flu . . . will severely test the best-laid plans . . . and many companies are not making any plans at all. Those expecting the federal government to ride in and come to their rescue [will] be sorely disappointed.” [emphasis added]

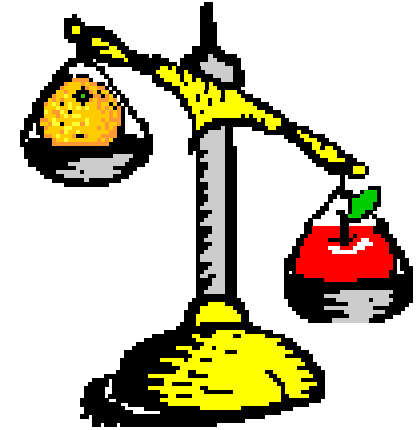
Not Your Usual Emergency

- **Planning is essential to assuring the orderly administration of justice.**
 - **The health of the justice system workers, as well as the health of the community, may depend on preparedness.**
 - **Good luck happens to the best prepared.**
-

The Lack of Working Knowledge

- **Most current office holders have never experienced a pandemic outbreak.**
 - **Case law is dated.**
 - **Public health uses some of the same terminology as that used in legal settings, but they don't always mean what you think they mean.**
-

JUSTICE and HEALTH



- **Justice Goal: Preserve Rule of Law**
- **Public Health Goal: Use the Law to Protect Health**

Starting with You

- **Get a flu shot. There is no vaccine for avian flu but it may boost your overall immunity, health officials say.**
- **Wash your hands to wash away the flu virus**
- **Cover your mouth when you sneeze or cough**
- **Stay home if you are sick.**



Critical Roles for the State Justice Agency

- Communication
 - Coordination
 - Careful Allocation of Resources
 - Strategic
 - Cost benefit
 - Tracking
 - Examples:
-

Inoculate Your System with Low Contact Ideas

- **Devise a Screening process for justice employees who patrol or work in known outbreak areas before they return to the agency to avoid spreading infection.**
- **Beef up audio and video conferencing to avoid face to face meeting with ill people or where outbreaks have occurred.**



Protect Staff



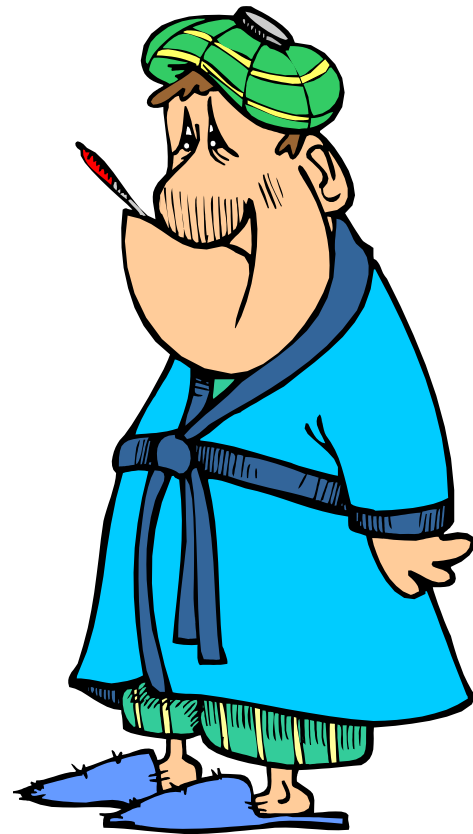
- Identify workers who may be added to the remote access rolls in the event of an outbreak

■ Make sure they have the gear and authorization they need to work from home



Who Can Advise on Sick Leave Policy?

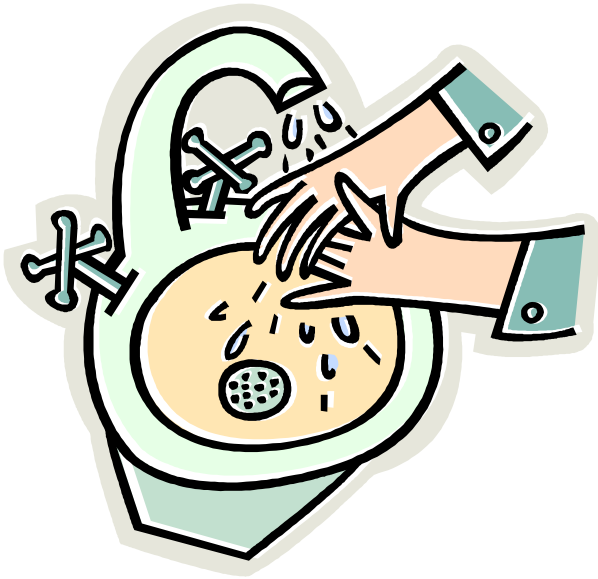
- Encourage those who have symptoms to report to work or stay home?
- Address reporting to work with a cold or flu?
- Provide guidance on reporting exposure to contagious disease?



Personnel Plans

- 1. Adequate number of people for safe operation**
 - 2. Qualified staff (cross training) to do all essential duties**
 - 3. Working conditions, telework, as well as personal needs such as assistance for transportation**
 - 4. Protection for staff**
 - 1. Safety and protective gear**
 - 2. Vaccinations**
 - 3. Safe water and air**
-

Physical Facilities Templates



- **Safety**
 - Is air handling done by a recirculation system?
 - Are hand washing facilities convenient?
- **Security**
- **Accessibility**
- **Use of alternate facilities**

Work with the Courts



Indiana Supreme Court has tasked the Court Management Committee to engage in an all hazards planning review.

Template for the local courts – Justice coordination is essential

Service of Court Papers

- **How will departments make proper service of orders to protect provide due process and not endanger personnel?**



More Tough Questions

- **What planning is needed for the programs that are administered by the judicial branch such as detention centers, probation and casework services, DUI services but closely impact Sheriff's duties?**
 - **How will we protect the mentally ill, alcoholic, addicted, and others with disabilities that will affect their compliance with court orders?**
-

RESOURCES

- http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/pandemic/pandemic_main.html
 - <http://spa.american.edu/justice/csdp.php>
 - <http://www.publichealthlaw.info/>
 - http://www.in.gov/isdh/trainingop/virt_lib_prep.htm
 - www.pandemicflu.gov
-
- <http://www.hhs.gov/nvpo/pandemics/tabletopex.html>