

Pandemic Influenza Preparedness & Response

Building on the Government's Response FOH is Ready – Let Us Help!

The National Strategy for Pandemic Influenza

In November 2005, the President released the National Strategy for Pandemic Influenza (<http://www.pandemicflu.gov/plan/tab1.html#national>). This strategy identified the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as the lead department for the nation's medical response. HHS is working with various organizations at international, federal, state, and local levels to plan and implement the following pandemic influenza activities:

- Surveillance and detection
- Vaccine development and production
- Stockpiling antiviral medications
- Research
- Risk communications

Agency Responsibilities

As part of the National Strategy, the President has directed each federal department and agency to ensure that their preparedness and response plans address the potential impact a pandemic will have on the federal workforce. Many agencies are in the process of revising Continuation of Operations Plans (COOP) to ensure that they include steps to accomplish critical mission activities with limited personnel or resources during a pandemic scenario. This represents an additional administrative burden to some already over-extended agencies.

FOH Can Help

Federal Occupational Health, an HHS division and a component of the U.S. Public Health Service, offers a continuum of pandemic influenza preparedness and response services. These services can be tailored to meet each agency's unique needs.

Preparedness Services

- **Consultation:** FOH will review existing response plans and partner with agencies to help them create plans that achieve the goals of the National Strategy for Pandemic Influenza.
 - **Employee Health:** FOH's Occupational Health Center staff keeps the workforce informed on two levels. Staff will speak with agency managers regarding health issues that impact the entire organization as well as provide one-on-one advice to employees with individual health concerns. In addition, staff provides educational services about disease transmission and prevention strategies that can sort fact from fiction and calm fears.
 - **Employee Assistance:** FOH provides traumatic incident preparedness consultation (crisis management), stress management, and psychological support services.
 - **Medical Clearance:** FOH conducts required medical evaluations for employees who must wear personal protective equipment (PPE).
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- **Environmental Health Planning:** FOH will perform a worksite analysis and report on exposure risk, provide industrial hygiene monitoring services, training on hand-hygiene practices, and provide

guidance on PPE such as respirators, eye protection, and protective clothing.

- **Training:** FOH provides training in pandemic awareness and preparation, self protection strategies, risk reduction, stress reduction, crisis management, and the use of PPE.

Response Services

- **Expert Occupational Health Consultation:** During a medical crisis, FOH acts as a surrogate medical director by providing immediate access to the expertise of medical and occupational health specialists who will provide the latest information on signs and symptoms, disease containment, risk reduction, sanitation and hygiene considerations, use of PPE, and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) guidelines. By partnering with FOH, agencies can increase their ability to quickly respond within the constantly changing environment of a pandemic or other emergency.
- **Health Services:** Where needed, FOH can provide disease surveillance, case tracking reporting, vaccination consistent with national priorities and available supplies.
- **Counseling, Support, and Crisis Management:** FOH provides 24/7 telephonic access to trained counselors for counseling, crisis management consultation, and critical incident stress management (CISM) services.
- **Dedicated Website:** Employee's can download the latest information and receive on-line training from FOH's [Pandemic Influenza website](#).
- **Environmental Health Response Management:** FOH will perform industrial hygiene risk evaluations and exposure assessments, help agencies select appropriate protective measures during an outbreak, offer respiratory protection management, training and fit testing, and provide information about OSHA regulations.

For More Information

To learn more, please visit www.PandemicFlu.gov for one-stop access to U.S. Government avian and pandemic flu information. You may also visit FOH's website at www.foh.dhhs.gov to learn more about programs and services that support Federal employees and managers.

For over half a century, FOH has delivered high quality occupational health services to Federal managers. FOH's knowledge of the Federal workplace, combined with strategic partnerships with professional health, environmental and safety organizations, enables FOH to help other Federal organizations maintain a safe and healthy workplace. FOH has created a team of professionals that is unparalleled in its ability to work within the Federal structure, yet remains as flexible and innovative as any private sector provider.

Through convenient interagency agreements, FOH's Clinical Services, Wellness/Fitness Programs, Environmental Health Services, and Employee Assistance and Work/Life Programs can provide your agency with a comprehensive occupational health program that saves you time and money. Our ability to customize services enables you to integrate components of our services with existing programs, enhancing their impact and ensuring that your agency meets its obligation to provide a safe and healthy workplace.

Make Federal Occupational Health your partner in building a healthier, more productive work force. For more information, please visit us at <http://www.foh.dhhs.gov> or call us today at **1-800-457-9808**.

Because you need a healthy work force. And we can help you build one.