

EXERCISE Situation Status Report

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| Date: November 18, 2015 From: Alameda County Public Health Department Time: 0700hrs Deputy Health Officer: Dr. Erica Pan | Situation: Statewide Medical Health EXERCISE-Operation H5N1 Initial Report: November 18, 2015 Update: NA | Report No. 111815_1 Page 1 of 2 |
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Alameda County Health Care Services Agency Response Summary

- The Alameda County Public Health Department has activated the Health Care Services Agency (HCSA) Department Operations Center (DOC) in anticipation of a surge of H5N1 patients. This includes the Medical Branch staffed by EMS.
- In the spring of 2015, a novel strain of H5N1 was detected in Cambodia & quickly spread throughout Southeast Asia and Australia. Roughly 30% have developed symptoms.
- By April 2015, eighteen countries reported over 250 cases of H5N1.
- In September 2015, the CDC reported via the Health Alert Network (HAN) that clusters of cases were found in the US, appearing in New York & Florida.
- First confirmed H5N1 case in California was reported on November 16, 2015 at 8:30 am; an adult who hosted visiting family from Cambodia. A week prior, the case and visiting family members (also ill) attended a fair in Pleasanton with over 5,000 attendees.
- ACPHD is coordinating closely with CA DPH Immunization Branch, neighboring bay area health jurisdictions, and other Southern CA jurisdictions to exchange information regarding cases and the potential medical surge.

Internal Response

- ACHCSA DOC was activated October 8, 2015. Current response efforts include activation of 27 staff from various programs to support the response.
- A briefing with HCSA leadership has been conducted.
- The CDC began distributing vaccines to counties to further prevent spread of virus. Alameda County has submitted a request for the vaccine via the SNS.
- Disease Containment Branch and the Mass Prophylaxis Plan has been activated.
- Data Branch is updating infectious disease case and contact database for tracking H5N1 cases and contacts.

Communications Updates

- A **Health Alert** was sent out on Nov. 17, 2015 to inform medical professionals of the potential spread of the H5N1 influenza strain to the public and recommendations and guidance for response including infection control, lab testing, treatment, and reporting. This Health Alert can be found on our webpage: <http://www.acphd.org/phep/exercises.aspx>.

Media Inquiries

- Media calls and requests for interviews have been trickling in.
- Media queries have been fielded from these media outlets:
 - TV channels 2/KQED, 3/NBC, 4/KRON, 5/KPIX, 7/KGO
 - Radio stations KCBS, KQED, KPFA
- Press conferences will be arranged as needed if a high volume of inquiries continues.
- Confirmed flu-related deaths in < 65 year olds will be updated and shared on Fridays, beginning November 20th to coordinate with CA Department of Public Health updates.
- Alameda County flu profile information (e.g. underlying health conditions for persons who died, any reported outbreaks, any known flu impact on hospitals) will be generated and shared with media via news release and/or on the ACPHD website.

Epi & Surveillance Updates

- Number of confirmed H5N1 Cases as of 11/16/15: **1**
- Deaths in < 65 year olds are reportable.

- Outbreaks in residential and institutional settings are reportable.

Hospitals/Emergency Medical Services/Healthcare Partners

- The Medical Branch of the DOC is working closely with EMS to manage and coordinate information regarding H5N1, and coordinate with EMS and healthcare partners.
- EMS has been seeing an upsurge in the use of diversion in all County hospitals. With the increase in overall patient volume, EMS anticipates that each hospital is determining the need to implement their surge plan. We request that hospitals notify the EMS Duty Officer, if their facility activates their surge plan.
- Alameda County EMS requests each ED continue to monitor the ReddiNet system and update their ED's "ALERT" status every few hours. ReddiNet HavBed polls will be conducted every Friday at 9am beginning 11/20/15 to monitor impact of this virus.
- EMS and Public Health are collaborating to uncover different strategies to provide some relief to our system and will continue to monitor the frequency of use and hours of diversion per hospital and may, at a certain trigger, suspend the use of diversion.
- EMS is also receiving reports from their primary ambulance provider of an increase in extended ambulance wait times at EDs.
- Alameda County has supplies available for medical surge tents which include beds if needed. If hospitals anticipate the need for these, they may send in a resource request. As of 11/18/15 there have been no medical health related requests.
- There have been reports of increased absentee and sick calls with our EMS and health care providers, both fire and private based. EMS provider agencies have increased staffing and have "overscheduled" to compensate for absenteeism.
- A conference call will be conducted with health care partners including LTCFs to discuss flu mitigation strategies and surge planning.

Laboratory Report

- Alameda County's Public Health Laboratory (ACPHL) is a Federal and State Certified Infectious Disease Laboratory with CDC provided reagents for influenza testing.
- The ACPHL has extensive experience with influenza testing and conducts testing annually:
 - Able to test for influenza by PCR (rapid, highly sensitive, testing); same day turnaround depending on workload
 - Capable of *sub-typing the virus*; (distinguishing H5, H7, H1 etc.) & detecting new strains

Flu Vaccine/Prevention

- The seasonal vaccine is ineffective, and all age groups are affected. Certain antiviral medications have been shown to help alleviate symptoms and are in high demand from local health departments, pharmacies, and healthcare providers.
- The Disease Containment Branch of the response is working closely with the Immunization Program regarding H5N1 vaccine information availability. Updates will be posted to our website as it becomes available.
- Vaccine FAQs for different audiences (parents, providers, schools, child care centers) are in the process of being developed for posting on the ACPHD website.

Information & Guidance

- We are tracking incoming requests and inquiries regarding flu, based on these we will update information as needed to appropriate target audiences.
- An Alameda County Flu Health Alert for health care providers was posted and distributed on Tuesday 11/17/2015
- We are updating our website to ensure it is up to date with current and useful flu information: <http://www.acphd.org/phep/exercises.aspx>.
- We have summarized information and shared updates with our health department staff, agency staff, health care partners, media, emergency responders, and the Board of Supervisors.
- **Exercise Conference Call Regarding H5N1 Information** will be held on: **Thursday, November 19, 2015 at 11am** (Call In: 1-888-808-6929 Access # 9445482).
- **Exercise Player Hotwash Conference Call** will be held on: **Thursday, November 19, 2015 at 12:05pm** (Call In: 1-888-808-6929 Access # 9445482).