

What to Expect in a Serious Flu Outbreak

Dear Family:

In addition to reported cases of avian influenza (bird flu) among birds, a few cases of bird flu among humans have also been reported in the United States. These cases are rare and human-to-human spread of bird flu is *not* occurring. Please note that there is *no* global outbreak of human flu (or “flu pandemic”) occurring anywhere in the world right now.

However, we would like to take this opportunity to let you know what might happen if a serious flu outbreak were to occur in our community. With this letter, we are including information about pandemic influenza and its possible effects on daily life. For example:

- Students will be dismissed from school.
- Basic services (such as power and water) are likely to be disrupted.
- Stores might be closed or out of supplies.
- Banks might close.
- Hospitals could be overwhelmed.

One of the best things you can do now to help protect yourself and your family is to be prepared. Store enough food, medical supplies, and other emergency supplies to last for at least two weeks. In addition, pay attention to and look for information from public health officials on prevention and control. For example, the federal Website www.pandemicflu.gov offers a lot of information and links to other important resources.

With this letter, we are also including a checklist of things you need to have on hand if basic services (such as power and water) are disrupted, schools close for weeks or months, and some businesses must close. You can use this list to help you prepare your family for an emergency, such as a pandemic. We are also including information on when to seek medical help if you think you have the flu.

Sincerely,

Encl:

Preparing for Pandemic Influenza

Individuals and Families Checklist for Pandemic Flu Planning

When to Seek Medical Help