

Local Effects of Pandemic Flu

Issues we may face



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Impacts this may have on our community infrastructure



Schools, business, and hospitals

The debate over closing schools

- ▶ If we close schools...
- ▶ Increased absenteeism
- ▶ Possible decreased nutrition for children
- ▶ Effects on teachers and education
- ▶ Communication with parents
- ▶ Reopening schools when schools have been used for other purposes



Planning tasks for schools

- ▶ How to provide education in the absence of gatherings
- ▶ Alternative meeting methods
- ▶ Recommendations for “banding” of families
- ▶ Try to minimize impact of loss of breakfast and lunch to dependent students
- ▶ CDC School Checklist

Business impacts

- ▶ Absenteeism from workplace estimated by CDC to be as high as 40%
- ▶ Transportation could be restricted
- ▶ Supply chains stretched or broken
- ▶ Increase/decrease in demand for products
- ▶ CDC Business Checklist in packet

Possible impacts on hospitals

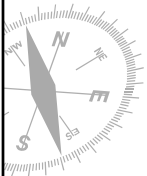
- ▶ Surge
- ▶ How to provide “normal” services when overwhelmed with flu
- ▶ How to protect health care workers in absence of vaccine
- ▶ Hospital vs. shelter

Decisions we will have to make while managing in a pandemic

- ▶ Priority setting for scarce resources
- ▶ Level of risk to be expected from Health Care workers
- ▶ Degree to which individual freedom must be compromised for the common good

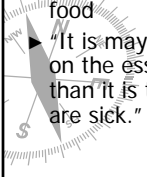


Priority setting for scarce resources



Priority for antivirals and vaccine

- ▶ Availability prior to outbreak – 1% to 60%
- ▶ CDC priorities: four tiers – tier 1: vaccine mfgs., health care, immunocompromised, pregnant, "key govt. leaders"
- ▶ WHO: maintaining infrastructure – water, power, food
- ▶ "It is maybe even more important to concentrate on the essentials of life for those who are living it than it is to focus on the treatment of those who are sick."



Priority for antivirals and vaccine

- ▶ Health Care workers
- ▶ Police, Fire, Emergency Response
- ▶ Water and Electricity
- ▶ Healthy young adults
- ▶ When vaccine finally starts arriving...
- ▶ 48 hrs. to vaccinate population
- ▶ For MOVHD, 134,000
- ▶ Estimated to need 500 volunteers

Other scarce resources

- ▶ Ventilators
- ▶ Hospital rooms
- ▶ Other drugs (insulin, heart and cancer medications, asthma medication, etc.)
- ▶ Food
- ▶ Gasoline

Level of risk expected of Health Care workers

- ▶ A chosen profession caring for sick assumes risk
- ▶ Best care
- ▶ Not only is worker subjected to deadly risk, but the loved ones of the worker also
- ▶ 1000/week trying to get into hospital, and HCW afraid to go to work – disaster
- ▶ Possible alternative – shelters and volunteers, keep flu out of hospitals

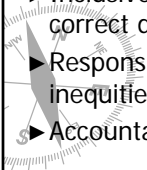
Forced reduction of liberties

- ▶ Our rights: Individual liberties, equal treatment under law, and privacy
- ▶ Vs. duty to protect the public from harm
- ▶ Schools, day care, church services and other mass gatherings restricted/banned
- ▶ Quarantines' cost and society's duty



Decisions made must be...

- ▶ Reasonable – based on facts and figures
- ▶ Open and transparent – so all will understand why
- ▶ Inclusive – encompassing many views so correct decisions are made
- ▶ Responsive – so that mistakes and inequities can be redressed
- ▶ Accountable



Why?

- ▶ Must maintain trust and solidarity of community
- ▶ If this happens, it will be HARD!
- ▶ Life will be hard
- ▶ Choices, both individual and community, will be hard
- ▶ Knowing this will keep us from panic
- ▶ Vaccine will come. Must hold on 'till then.

