

WHO PanFlu Alert Level 6 January 29, 2010 U.S. Terrorism Threat Level Yellow

→The Regional News Update is now posted on MIHAN and the Regional Website←

Region 3 Planning Board Meeting Report

The Region 3 Planning Board held its regular monthly meeting at the Lincoln Center in Bay City on January 25th.

Among the areas covered by the Board were:

- ✓ Report on the work of the Region 3 Homeland Security Board.
- ✓ Report on the Long Term Care Emergency Preparedness Grants.
- ✓ Report on the Phase 2 and Phase 3 PanFlu funding.
 - As of the meeting date, there was over \$89,000 still unused in the Phase 2 PanFlu funding released in Sept. 2009. The deadline for submission of invoices for reimbursement under Phase 2 was Jan 15th. The Board directed that each hospital with outstanding funds available be sent a letter stating their current balance and giving them unit Feb. 15th to submit their intentions and spending plans. The Board will then review the status of this funding opportunity at its next meeting.
- ✓ Report on the upcoming MCC/CHECC communications exercise.
- ✓ Approved \$20,000 for the Cornerstones in Preparedness Conference scheduled for June 17th at the Dow Event Center in Saginaw.
- ✓ Approved \$9000 for the Psych First Aid training scheduled for July 20th at SVSU.
- ✓ Approved an additional \$10,000 for surge supply storage and tracking. This increase is due to the large amount of SNS supplies received during the HINI pandemic.
- ✓ Report on the OPHP MI Volunteer Registry (MVR) grant and Regional Champion project.
- ✓ Received a report on the status of the EMS radios currently at MPSCS awaiting programming.
- ✓ Received a report on the status of the request to purchase a Zimek unit for disinfection of EMS vehicles. This request, approved at last month's meeting is awaiting approval by the State.

- ✓ Received a presentation by Dr. Nigl on the draft of the State Ethics Guidelines. Feedback is welcome.
- ✓ Approved the change in the Regional Antibiotic Cache from numerous local caches to one Regional Cache.
- ✓ Rescheduled the September Advisory Committee meeting from 9/14 to 9/21 due to the scheduling of a Statewide Healthcare Preparedness Conference to be held in Mt. Pleasant on Sept. 14th.

The next Board meeting will be Monday, February 22, 2010 at the Lincoln Center at 1:00.

Region 3 Names ESAR-VHP Champion

The State Office of Public Health Preparedness (OPHP) has received a grant for work with the Michigan Volunteer Registry program.

As part of this program, each Region was tasked with identifying a Champion to work with OPHP on standardizing templates for activation of volunteers during an emergency, as well as participating in various State meetings and conferences. The deadline for identifying each Region's Champion was December 4th, which Region 3 met.

We are happy to announce that Mr. **Dave Guterriez** of the American Red Cross has accepted the Champion position for Region 3 and OPHP has approved his work agreement, which is being used as a model for other Regions.

We are awaiting further guidance from OPHP on this project and look forward to working with Dave on this important area.

**Remember to register for the
MI VOLUNTEER REGISTRY - it's a great way to
help your neighbors, our community and the State!
For more information, go to:
www.mivolunteerregistry.org**

Region 3 Successfully Completes 13th Consecutive Monthly 100% 800 MHz Radio Drill

The monthly Region 3 radio drill was held today for all hospitals, MCA's, Public Health Agencies and other key partners in the region for the month of January 2010.

Procedure:

Prior notice of the drill was provided to all key agencies in the Region via 1 email in the days prior to the drill and a MIHAN alert and email the morning of the drill.

The drill was started on January 7th at 8:00 AM with a MIHAN high level alert and email.

Results:

As outlined in the instructions, the drill was begun at 9:00 AM and ended at 10:36 with the following results.

Hospitals listed (includes Tribal Wellness Center): 23
Hospitals responding: 23
Percentage: 100%
(Unchanged from previous test)

MCA's listed: 11
MCA's responding: 11
Percentage: 100%
(Unchanged from previous test)

Health Dept. listed: 10
Health Dept. responding: 10
Percentage: 100%
(Unchanged from previous test)

Other personnel listed:
(includes EMHSD Dist Coordinator, Regional Coordinator, Asst. Coordinator, Reg. Assistant, Medical Director & Regional Lab) 5
Other personnel responding: 5
Percentage: 100%

Overall Percentage of agencies contacted: 100%
(UNCHANGED from 100% for the previous test)

Follow up Plan:

In that all agencies completed the drill in the allocated time, no follow up actions were needed.

As a side note, this was the first regional exercise run by Kathe Martin, our Assistant Coordinator and she did an outstanding job.

**Congratulations to all who
participated in this successful drill!**

Office Closure Notice:

The Region 3 Office will be **CLOSED**, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15th observance of Presidents' Day.

REMINDER!

**THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING
REIMBURSEMENT PAPERWORK
FOR PANFLU PHASE 3 FUNDING IS
APRIL 16, 2010!**

**Contact Jim in the Regional Office
with ANY questions.**

SAVE THE DATES!

- **Cornerstones in Preparedness
conference June 17, 2010 at the
Dow Event Center**
- **Psychological First Aid training
(ideal for Medical Reserve
Corps personnel) July 20, 2010
at SVSU.**

Registration information to follow.

Regional Office Now Offers PortaCount Training and Medical Clearance Form Review

Region 3 has three PortaCount units for fit testing for N-95 respirators. These units allow for *QUANTATIVE* fit testing of individuals who need to wear these respirators.

We now have two certified trainers, Kathe Martin and Jennifer Stefaniak, in our office who can offer training sessions on the PortaCount machines. Agencies interested in setting up training sessions should contact Kathe in the Regional Office at kmmartin@saginawcounty.com or call her at (989) 758-3769.

In addition, when an individual is required to wear a respirator as part of their work, they are required by OSHA to complete a Medical Questionnaire. The Region

3 Office can now offer administrative review and approval of uncomplicated Medical Questionnaires for agencies located in our 14 counties. Questionnaires that have any possible indications for further medical evaluation will be returned to the agency for referral. For more information on this program, please contact Jim in the Regional Office at: jbrasseur@saginawcounty.com or call him at (989) 758-3712.

Currently, Region 3 is the only one in the State offering these services to regional partners.

Change Implemented in Regional Antibiotic Cache

Approximately three years ago, Region 3 deployed large supplies of antibiotics to each of our hospitals and Medical Control Authorities as prophylaxis for their staff and families for six days in case of a biologic event such as an anthrax release. It has since been recognized that the possibility of such a biologic release that would cover all or most of our 14 counties is remarkably remote.

After routine review of this program with our hospital pharmacist colleagues, we have developed a refinement of the antibiotic cache plan that was approved by the Regional Board at their Jan 25th meeting.

Under the revision, the current local caches are being recalled to the regional warehouse where they will be consolidated into a single Regional Antibiotic Cache.

All of the custodians of the local caches have been informed to return their antibiotics to the warehouse where they will be inventoried and re-configured into the new cache.

Long Term Care Resources Available Through The Regional Office

With the recent addition of our new Assistant Regional Coordinator, Region 3 can now offer more services to Long Term Care and Home Care agencies.

Additional supplies for Long Term Care facilities are anticipated to arrive from the state in the next few

weeks. In the meantime, any agency needing PPE supplies can contact the Region 3 office for assistance.

We also have put together some informational packets loaded with LTC emergency planning materials. Keeping them in our office does no good. Please call and ask for one.

Agency Inventory Project Underway

Annually, each partner agency working with Region 3 is asked to certify that the equipment and supplies they have received under this cooperative agreement are present, serviceable and ready for deployment.

In the last two weeks, individualized inventories have been mailed to each hospital and medical control authority for their review and certification. Once completed, signed and dated, the inventories are to be returned to Jennifer in the Regional Office by March 19, 2010.

Please contact Jennifer with any questions regarding this project. She may be reached at jestefaniak@saginawcounty.com or at (989) 758-3713.

Upcoming Meetings:

Healthcare Preparedness Advisory Committee: Next regular meeting February 9, 2010 from 1:00 to 4:00 PM at the Lincoln Center, 820 S. Lincoln St., Bay City, MI.

Healthcare Preparedness Regional Planning Board: Next regular meeting February 22, 2010 from 1:00 to 4:00 PM at the Lincoln Center, 820 S. Lincoln St, Bay City, MI.

Today's Quote:

Faith is taking the first step, even when you don't see the whole staircase.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Interesting tidbits:

According to a report issued by the *Clinicians' Biosecurity Network*, studies have shown that even with

formal training and Fit Testing of N-95 masks, HCW's ability to retain their skills in N95 mask use is diminished in those who do not use the respirator regularly. HCW need opportunities for regular use in order to achieve sufficient respiratory protection. The study stated that the main benefit of fit testing is to identify those "individuals whose facial features preclude the use of the most common types of respirators." Beyond that, comprehensive training programs offer the next best measure to increase proper respirator use and effectiveness.

Are We Finally Over All This Pig Pandemonium?

There has been a wide range of reactions, both from the public as well as health care providers, over the way the H1N1 pandemic was handled. For those who personally experienced the flu full force, and for those who had loved ones die a most horrible death, the complaint was that the Public Health efforts were too little too late. On the other side of the coin are the people who maintain we were making much ado about nothing. It has been suggested that the pandemic was all a big hoax to get people in an uproar and it was no big deal; stop crying wolf.

That this novel H1N1 pandemic has so far been relatively "mild" does not lessen the fact that it has caused tens of thousands of deaths worldwide and strained the capabilities of already strapped-for-cash hospitals at the peak of the second wave this fall. Imagine if it would have developed into the worst case scenario we asked everyone to prepare for. Would

people have then been upset when we were prepared to handle whatever came at us?

As Peter Sandman points out in his January *Pandemic Communication Update*, when you buy home owner's insurance do you get upset when your house doesn't burn down? The public health response has absolutely been on target based on the relative risk assessments of what might happen. So how do we answer the question, "Is it over now?" To which we must respond, "Probably not but we're still not certain what's ahead."

Looking back at historical novel influenza pandemics we have a fairly good idea of the possibilities we may face. It would be foolish to pretend it can't happen again. Epidemiologists, virologists, and experts in infectious disease agree that we haven't seen the last of novel H1N1. Some experts think it is very possible we will see a delayed third wave occurring in the spring or summer, if not sooner. Or, it may lay low over the summer and return in the fall with a mutation or merge that causes it to become the virulent beastie we've been dreading. Perhaps we will get very lucky and our hand washing, cough etiquette, vaccination campaign will have been effective enough to allow this strain to become the next "regular seasonal flu."

We use relative risk methods to make intelligent predictions. We cannot guarantee the outcome. As with life insurance and homeowners insurance, the Public Health approach has remained the same; Prepare for the worst. Hope for the best. How can you do more than that? Keep spreading the message of preparation, protection, and pandemic awareness.



Swine Flu Control – but watch out, it can return!

The Region 3 Healthcare Preparedness Network

Is pleased to announce the availability of



FREE!

On Line Training.

These four ~~FIVE~~ modules are now available on MITRAIN (<https://mi.train.org>)

- Region 3 MCC Operations
 - Region 3 ACC Trailer
 - Region 3 MCI Trailer
 - Region 3 Radio Systems
- *NEW COURSE! - REGION 3 ORIENTATION!!!*

The 1st four offer EMS CE credit!

To find the courses, after registering and logging into MITRAIN, go to the "Course Search" tab (at the top of the page) and click on "Key Word Search" under the Search Options (on the left side of the page.) Type in "Region 3" and the courses will be listed. Just select the course you want.

Contact the Region 3 office with any questions or problems.

Enjoy your FREE learning experience!

This program is supported 100% by Michigan Department of Community Health with funding from the U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services (HHS) Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) Hospital Preparedness Program Cooperative Agreement # 1U3REP080098-01-00.