FACT SHEET – Pandemic Flu

AN INFLUENZA PANDEMIC IS A WORLDWIDE OCCURRENCE OF A NEW TYPE OF FLU

- To cause a pandemic, a new type of flu:
  - spreads easily from person to person
  - causes serious illness
  - is a kind of flu that few people are immune to
- Pandemic flu has occurred naturally throughout history. There have been three pandemics in the last 100 years:
  - 1918–1919: “Spanish flu”
- Pandemics are unpredictable. It is hard to know:
  - when one will occur
  - what type of flu it will be
  - how severe it will be

A PANDEMIC COULD CHANGE THE WAY WE LIVE

A flu pandemic could:

- cause many deaths and severe illnesses
- disrupt some parts of daily life
- limit the amount of health and other services available

GATHERINGS OF PEOPLE MIGHT BE LIMITED TO CONTROL THE SPREAD OF THE DISEASE.

- Schools and businesses may close.
- Sporting and entertainment events could be cancelled.
- Transportation could be limited.

HOSPITALS COULD BE OVERLOADED.

- Doctors and nurses could be sick.
- There could be more people with the flu than the hospitals can treat.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

KY Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Frankfort, KY
http://healthalerts.ky.gov

KY Regional Poison Center Louisville, KY
EMERGENCY: 1-800-222-1222
http://www.krpc.com/

Lake Cumberland District Health Dept.
(606) 678 – 4761

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Atlanta, GA
Toll free: 1-800-311-3435
http://www.cdc.gov/flu/pandemic/
http://www.pandemicflu.gov
• Some people would need to be cared for in their homes or other places.

FACT SHEET – Pandemic Flu (continued)

PROTECTING THE PUBLIC AGAINST A PANDEMIC IS A CHALLENGE

Large amounts of vaccine may be needed.

• A vaccine cannot be made until the virus causing the pandemic is identified.
• It may take months to make enough vaccine for everyone.
• Vaccination against other types of flu will not provide protection.

If you get the flu, it is important for your health and the health of others to:

• stay at home and rest
• take medicines according to instructions to relieve the symptoms
• drink plenty of fluids

Federal, state, and local authorities have been preparing by:

• getting medicines and distributing them where they are needed
• trying to make sure there will be enough health care services
• getting people the information and help they need

MORE SPECIFIC INFORMATION WILL BE AVAILABLE THROUGH THE EMERGENCY HOTLINE AND IN THE MEDIA.

HOTLINE: 1-800-222-1222