

## **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”
  - 1957–1958: “Asian flu”
  - 1968–1969: “Hong Kong 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

#### **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>

### **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.



- 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***