

preparing for *PANDEMIC INFLUENZA*

Courts could be detrimentally impacted for up to 18 months ...

- ❑ utilities and other infrastructure could be limited because of isolation, quarantine, illness or death of the staff who keep those services running;
- ❑ a significant number of judges, attorneys and staff may not be available because of illness or death;
- ❑ emergency matters and case filings could significantly increase due to issues associated with isolation and quarantine;
- ❑ isolation and quarantines could restrict face-to-face interaction of judges, attorneys, court staff, jurors and litigants.

Florida's courts are taking steps to be ready. We have two goals:

- ❖ protect the health and safety of everyone inside our facilities;
- ❖ ensure we can 'keep the courts open' to provide justice for our citizens.

things you should know, things you should do at home

steps to take now

Update family preparedness plans:

- Talk about who would take care of sick family members and what supplies would be needed in your home if someone does get sick or family members with existing health conditions are affected. Remember, your home could be quarantined. Would it be feasible for one household member to stay elsewhere temporarily in order to shop for the family and generally serve as a liaison to the outside world? If so, who should it be? Where would he or she stay?
- Make sure you have adequate information about your family's health conditions, medicines, blood types, allergies, etc.
- Consider volunteering to help your community prepare and respond.

Stock family emergency supply kits with these items:

- ✓ Hand sanitizer, protective gloves and particulate respirators (masks) with at least 95 percent efficiency. That's N95 or comparable. More details at: www.cdc.gov/niosh/npptl/topics/respirators/disp_part/n95list1.html.
- ✓ A **two-week** supply of water for each person. That's at least one gallon per person per day. That's 14 gallons of water per person.
- ✓ Enough food to feed your family for **two weeks**. Consider ready-to-eat canned goods, protein or fruit bars, dry cereal or granola, peanut butter and nuts, dried fruit, crackers, canned juices, Gatorade, canned or jarred baby food and formula, pet food.
- ✓ Medical and health supplies, such as a thermometer; acetaminophen, ibuprofen or other medicines for fever; anti-diarrheal medication, any prescription medicines.
- ✓ Other supplies, including manual can opener, portable radio, batteries, flashlights, paper goods, moisture wipes, cash.

limit the spread of germs

Stay home if you are sick.

IF YOU ARE SICK ...

Avoid people who are sick as much as possible.

STAY HOME!

Cover coughs and sneezes with tissue.

Wash hands frequently, using soap, water AND time (**at least 10 seconds!**)

why this is so important ...

No one can predict exactly when and where a flu pandemic will happen. But based on history, health officials estimate an influenza pandemic will occur every 35 years.

The last one was in 1968.

The next one has the potential of overshadowing any emergency or disaster that we've seen in the last 80 years, according to University of Minnesota public health expert Michael Osterholm, who helped draft the U.S. national pandemic strategy. Millions of Americans could get sick and at least 2 million could die, Osterholm has warned. As Florida health officials prepare plans, these are their working *assumptions*:

- The pandemic is likely to come in a series of one to three “waves” over 1 to 3 years. Each wave will probably last 4 to 8 weeks.

- Total deaths in Florida could be as high as 320,000. Half of all deaths are likely to occur in the first wave.

- One in three people in Florida could become ill and of those people one in 10 will be so sick they need to be hospitalized. Hospitals, nurses, doctors and other health care providers will all be severely stressed.

- An additional 30 to 50 percent of the population will be infected but will show no symptoms, even though they can infect others.

- A person who is exposed may show symptoms in just 1 day – but it could be as many as 8 days before symptoms develop.

- Florida will have only a limited amount of Oseltamivir (Tamiflu), the only effective antiviral currently available. The current policy is to use these limited doses for those whose lives are in the greatest danger.

- Vaccination is the main way to prevent influenza but it could take 6 to 8 months to develop a vaccine once the virus has been identified.

learn more, stay informed

U.S. government site: www.PandemicFlu.gov

Florida courts site: www.flcourts.org/gen_public/emergency/

backup: www.firn.edu/supct ; www.appellatecourtclerks.org/flcourts

Supreme Court hotline: 850-921-8552

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