

Pandemic Flu Preparation

--**The Updated Pandemic Flu Plan for DHS** is available on the Infection Prevention and Control Website located on the D-Web. The plan is an annex to the existing Disaster Management Plan and Incident Command. DHS will institute Incident Command in the event of a pandemic influenza outbreak. During a Pandemic Flu, Deaconess Healthcare System plans to continue to care for patients as usual at its urgent cares, surgery centers, rehabilitation areas, senior centers, ambulatory clinics and also through its at-home care. As supplies and staff decrease, decisions will be made through Incident Command.

--**Community Public Town Hall Meeting on Pandemic Influenza** on Thursday, August 27, 2009 at 6:30 PM. It will be at Deaconess Main Campus in Johnson Hall located in the Health Science Building. Come to hear and discuss how to prepare in order to protect yourself, your family, your business, and your community from a potential Pandemic Influenza outbreak. The Vanderburgh County Health Department will be conducting this public town hall meeting.

--**Seasonal Flu Shots** will be started earlier than normal this year. The COMP Center will start administering seasonal flu vaccine on September 15, 2009.

--**Pandemic Flu Vaccine (H1N1 Vaccine)** is currently under development. Distribution of the vaccine from the manufacturers will be under the direction of the CDC, ISDH, and local county health departments. Release of the vaccine is expected in late October. When DHS receives vaccine from the local county health departments, healthcare workers will be offered the pandemic flu shot.

--**What You Can Do About The Flu**

- * Clean your hands frequently: Wash with soap and water or use an alcohol based hand sanitizer
- * Cover your cough: Cough into your sleeve or use a tissue
- * Keep your environment clean
- * Get your seasonal flu shot
- * Get a pandemic flu vaccine when it becomes available
- * If you have a fever, stay home for at least 24 hrs after that fever has ended