

MEMORANDUM

Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
Division of Homeland Security
and Emergency Management

State of Alaska

Phone: 907-428-7036

TO: See Distribution

DATE: April 25, 2006

SUBJECT: MAC Group Meeting
Summary

FROM: Gary Brown

April 18, 2006 Meeting Summary
MULTI AGENCY COORDINATION (MAC)
PANDEMIC INFLUENZA GROUP

The meeting convened at 10:00 am in Anchorage at the Frontier Building, Suite 760 and the following personnel attended.

- Attendance:
 - Co-Chair: Commissioner Karleen Jackson - DHSS
 - Dr. Richard Mandsager – Director, DHSS/DPH
 - Mr. Dennis DeWitt – Governor’s Office
 - Mr. Dan Saddler – DNR
 - Ms. Kristin Ryan – DEC
 - Mr. Matt Robus and Ms. Sarah Gilbertson – DF&G
 - Ms. Megan Wilmoth - ASHNHA
 - CDR (Dr.) Esteban Palacio – US Coast Guard
 - CAPT Lin Lenahan and CDR Walt Stanish – ALCOM/J5
 - Mr. Doug Alcorn – USFWS
 - Ms. Eric Fry – DEED
 - Ms. Betty Svensson and Mr. Grady Fisher – Alaska Municipal League
 - Ms. Heather Handyside – Anchorage OEM
 - Ms. Beverly Wooley and Diane Ingle – Anchorage HHS
 - Mr. Mike Patterson – Juneau OEM
 - Mr. Ed Thompson – British Petroleum
 - Mr. Bryant Harrison – FEMA Region 10
 - Mr. Jim Butchart – DMVA/DHS&EM
 - Mr. Gary Brown – DMVA/DHS&EM

- Agencies not represented
 - Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
 - Department of Public Safety
 - ANTHC

- CDC
 - Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development
 - Department of Administration
 - Department of Labor and Workforce Development
 - Alaska National Guard
 - American Red Cross
 - Commonwealth North
 - Kodiak OEM
- Dr. Mandsager said the April 13 Summit was a success. There was good participation, with nearly 300 people attending, and probably 90% of them still present at the end of the day. He was pleased that public school issues were a topic of conversation, and noted that Carol Comeau (Anchorage School District Superintendent) attended the entire Summit. Closing schools becomes a complex issue because of factors such as working parents (career and income issues), family reliance on school meals for their children, potential problems with teenagers congregating elsewhere (malls, etc), and what to do with thousands of school staff personnel. This is a likely topic of interest to include in the community outreach visits.
 - Jim Butchart (IMT Incident Commander) addressed the status of previous MAC Group taskings.

A challenging task was to propose simple terminology for the “Asian H5/N1 Avian Influenza” which would be easily understandable to the general public. The IMT proposed to use “Bird Flu,” because it is simple and easy to remember, although fully acknowledging that it is not scientifically accurate. After MAC Group discussion, it was agreed that in discussions, presentations, and correspondence with the general public, “**Asian H5/N1 Avian Influenza**” terminology would initially be used, with “**Bird Flu**” substituted thereafter.

The IMT is awaiting information on their request to the JCG about designing a security strategy. The JCG met last Friday and information is expected soon. Mr. Butchart will report on this issue at the next MAC Group meeting.

The outreach schedule continues to expand. Numerous communities have expressed an interest in outreach visits. The next outreach event is May 8-10 in Nome, where some 34 outlying community representatives will attend. The Nome curriculum will be the template for the community visits being scheduled throughout the spring and summer. Staffing for the events will be a challenge. Ms. Kristin Ryan (DEC) mentioned that DEC has employees in a number of communities and they will be available to help with outreach visits in their communities.

Bird disposal recommendations are being added to the Pan Flu web site.

The Alaska Municipal League requested “Bird Flu” information, such as contact numbers, web site addresses, etc. for their AML Newsletter. The newsletter reaches over 750 municipal and tribal officials, as well as legislators. Subsequently, a one page information sheet is being developed for use by AML and other organizations.

The Whistle Stop tour 2006, although not as heavily attended as hoped, was a beneficial effort.

- Dr. Mandsager led the Group Discussion portion of the meeting. The first topic was to further clarify his guidance at the April 4, 2006 MAC Group Meeting regarding IMT taskings. Dr. Mandsager restated that some IMT taskings could be resource intensive. The MAC Group expects the IMT to review each tasking, determine resource, scheduling, and staffing requirements, etc. and provide that information to the MAC Group at their next meeting. The MAC Group will then give further guidance about the disposition of each tasking, taking into consideration that we are now in a “planning” and not a “response” phase. “Easy” tasks would simply be accomplished by the IMT without the additional resource analysis step.

There was significant discussion about information flow, State/Federal communication strategy, and media announcements regarding “presumptive positives,” “confirmed positives,” “live bird sampling,” and “dead bird sampling” for both domestic and wild birds. The criteria for these issues is still being defined and negotiated among the State and Federal partners. This will be an agenda item in MAC Group meetings until the issues are resolved.

Agencies continue to make progress on responsibilities for “Bird” and “Human” issues.

The large scale telecommuting issue was discussed, although the Department of Administration was not present. One concern was whether there would be enough telephone and internet capacity if large numbers of people were telecommuting. Mr. Butchart offered that DOA will provide information on the large scale telecommuting issue at the next MAC Group meeting.

Mr. Mike Patterson, Juneau OEM, identified a need for a short, standardized “Bird Flu” Power Point presentation that a local official could give at a town meeting or other outreach venue.

- **Tasking:** The IMT will develop a “Bird Flu” Power Point presentation, which will be made available to requesting parties.

The next MAC Group meeting will be Tuesday, May 2, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. DHSS will host the meeting in Suite 760 of the Frontier Building at 3601 C Street. For those who cannot attend in person, we have set up a "Meet Me" teleconference. The call-in number is 1-800-315-6338 and the access code is 7062#. The meeting agenda will be provided in another announcement.

Please contact Gary Brown, MAC Group Coordinator, at 907-428-7036 or gary_brown@ak-prepared.com with any questions or comments.