

# 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: Oct 5, 2006

SUBJECT: MAC Group Meeting  
Summary

FROM: Gary Brown

**August 29, 2006 Meeting Summary**  
**MULTI AGENCY COORDINATION (MAC)**  
**PANDEMIC INFLUENZA GROUP**

The meeting convened at 11:00 a.m., following the Public Information Policy Tabletop Exercise, in Anchorage at the Frontier Building, Suite 890. The following personnel were present.

- Attendance:
  - Co-Chair – Commissioner Karleen Jackson
  - Co-Chair – Mr. Dave Liebersbach – Director, DMVA/DHS&EM
  - Dr. Richard Mandsager – Director, DHSS/DPH
  - Ms. Sherry Hill, Ms. Kerre Fisher – DHSS
  - Mr. Frank Richards – DOT&PF
  - Mr. Dan Sadler - DNR
  - Lt. Brandon Anderson – DPS
  - Dr. Jay Fuller – DEC
  - Mr. Matt Robus and Mr. Tim Barry – DF&G
  - Mr. Mike Bradley - ANTHC
  - Mr. Shah Roohi – CDC
  - Dr. Linda Smith - ASHNSA
  - CDR Robert Forgit – US Coast Guard
  - CAPT Lin Lenahan – ALCOM / J5
  - Mr. Doug Alcorn and Ms. Julie Wheeler – USFWS
  - Mr. Eric Swanson – DOA
  - Mr. Earl Metier – DOL
  - COL Jeff Arnold – Alaska National Guard
  - Ms. RaeShaun Bibbs – Anchorage OEM
  - Ms. Diane Ingle – Anchorage HHS
  - Mr. Mike Patterson – Juneau OEM
  - Mr. Ed Thompson – British Petroleum
  - Dr. Robert Winfree – NPS
  - Ms. Pamela Bergmann - DOI
  - Mr. Jim Butchart and Mr. Gary Brown – DMVA/DHS&EM

- Agencies not represented
  - Governor's Office
  - Department of Education and Early Development
  - Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development
  - Alaska Municipal League
  - American Red Cross
  - Commonwealth North
  - Kodiak OEM
  - University of Alaska
  - FEMA Region 10
  
- Commissioner Karleen Jackson opened the meeting by praising the work of the MAC Group and the substantial progress made since the beginning of the year. She also noted that nearly everyone in attendance was an “exempt” (appointed) State employee and therefore served at the pleasure of the Governor. Many faces would change after December election. The Commissioner’s challenge to the classified employees (and remaining exempt employees) associated with the MAC Group was to carry the program forward for the benefit of all Alaskans.
  
- Jim Butchart, IMT Incident Commander, addressed the status of previous MAC Group taskings.

The informational document to address school closures was completed and distributed.

A tabletop exercise with a law enforcement scenario will be ready to conduct in conjunction with the next scheduled MAC Group meeting.

The IMT is working on a transitional plan to move from the preparedness phase to the response phase for an H5/N1 Pandemic. Elements of this process were addressed in this morning’s tabletop exercise. Also, British Petroleum has begun preparing a transition plan specific to their organization.

**Tasking:** The IMT will develop a transition plan to move from the preparedness phase to the response phase in the event of an H5N1 Pandemic.

- Commissioner Jackson, Dr. Mandsager, and Dave Liebersbach led the Group Discussion portion of the meeting.

The Co-Chairs agreed that the just-completed tabletop exercise generated much worthwhile discussion on the pandemic influenza public information process. More tabletop exercises will be valuable in determining shortfalls and conflicts, as well as reinforcing capabilities. We should use the results of the tabletop exercise to address some of the issues and gaps identified, according to Dave Liebersbach. Commissioner Jackson reinforced that by stating that we have been doing case

planning until now; next is “just in time” planning. This can be accomplished in part by organizations developing operational plans to address a pandemic influenza scenario.

A suggestion was made during the TTX for the MAC Group to consider taking advantage of the next Alaska Municipal League (AML) conference to present Pandemic Influenza information to many community leaders at the same time. The Co-Chairs agreed this was an opportunity worth pursuing.

**Tasking:** The IMT will attempt to schedule time on the agenda at the next AML conference to present Pandemic Influenza information.

There have been more than 16,500 bird samples taken so far, with more than 15,000 of them submitted to the Wisconsin lab for testing. Nearly 12,000 of the tests have been completed, with 116 samples testing positive for some type of avian influenza, 9 testing positive for H5 (low pathogenic), and none testing positive for H5N1. Hunter killed testing will start with the opening of the waterfowl hunting season on September 1.

Resources continue to be dedicated to the popular community outreach program. From September through November, outreach events are scheduled in Barrow, Fairbanks, Kotzebue, Bethel, and Cold Bay. The dates for a visit to Dillingham are yet to be determined and a Valdez event will be conducted next spring. The community outreach presentations continue to be well-received, with some communities asking for follow-on visits.

Clarifying the role of the MAC Communications Group was substantially addressed in the tabletop exercise preceding this meeting. Relevant information will be available in the tabletop exercise summary.

A discussion of coordinating with health insurers about filling prescriptions for more than 30 days will be discussed at a future MAC Group meeting.

Dr. Mandsager noted that anti-virals, ventilators, and personal protective equipment are the next step in preparing to minimize transmission and help sick people in the event of a pandemic influenza. However, this is a challenging budget issue. The potential for a pandemic influenza is leading us into a new place in Alaska government.

The next MAC Group meeting will be combined with a security focused Tabletop Exercise, and both will be conducted on Friday, October 13, 2006, from 8:00 a.m. to noon. The combined events will be held in Anchorage at the State Crime Lab, located on the southeast corner of Tudor and Boniface.

The TTX + MAC Group Meeting will last approximately 4 hours (TTX 8am - 11am, MAC Group meeting 11am - noon) and participants will need to attend in person. DPH

will fund travel costs, if necessary. Please contact Christine Lee at 465-1386 with travel funding questions. The TTX is for policy and decision makers, and participants should be limited to primary MAC Group members and/or an alternate.

Please contact Gary Brown, MAC Group Coordinator, at 907-428-7036 or [gary\\_brown@ak-prepared.com](mailto:gary_brown@ak-prepared.com) with any questions or comments.