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Tooele County Health Department



# Pandemic Flu Outbreak

- Pandemic Flu is a new outbreak which spreads rapidly from one person to another. People do not have immunity to this new flu.
- At first the new virus attacks birds and animals, and later begins to infect humans.
- Since it's a brand new virus, scientists have not been able to make a vaccine to prevent it.
- Hundreds of thousands (maybe millions) will get sick. Many will die.
- Health officials are concerned about the Avian (bird) flu in Asia and Europe, because it could easily spread from one person to another.
- No one knows when the next pandemic flu outbreak will occur.
- Large pandemics occurred in 1918, 1957, and again in 1968. Since people travel quickly all over the world, it would be easy to spread a new virus from one person to another.



# Utah Prepares Schools

## Be Informed:

- ◆ Listen for pandemic influenza updates you see on the TV or hear on the radio.
- ◆ Understand pandemic flu is very different than the regular flu
  - >More people will be sick
  - >Those who become sick may be seriously ill
  - >There is no vaccine available
- ◆ A pandemic will change the way people live their lives
  - >Schools/daycares may be closed
  - >Grocery stores may close
  - >Churches/community centers may close

## Have a plan:

- Establish an emergency communications plan in your school. Include teachers, students, and support staff.
- Make sure your school has sufficient infection prevention supplies on hand (soap, alcohol based hand sanitizer, and tissues).
- Form a committee of staff members to develop a plan for dealing with pandemic flu.
- Assign staff to network with Tooele County Health Department on a regular basis to stay informed about public health warnings.
- Visit Tooele County's Environmental Health and ask for a copy of the Flu Response Plan and compare it with the one for your school.

## Talk to your people; parents, students, families:

- ▽ Talk to faculty, staff, parents, and students about pandemic flu and what the plan is for your school.
- ▽ When appropriate, include pandemic flu information in class discussions.
- ▽ Distribute materials with information about pandemic flu, including modes of transmission and prevention.
- ▽ Make sure people and students are aware who they can contact at the Tooele County Health Department for more information.
- ▽ Make sure staff and families understand your pandemic flu plan. Help them understand they need a back up plan in place because your school may be closed.
- ▽ Make it clear to parents and other caregivers that sick children will not be allowed to remain in school.

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