

# Public Health Preparedness Update



Serving Benton, Franklin, Klickitat, Walla Walla, and Yakima Counties

**Points of Interest:**

Region 8 Healthcare Coalition Meeting  
July 9, 2008  
Noon  
Richland Red Lion

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July 2008

## Region 8 Exercise: Bugga Boo Flu

Many thanks to everyone who participated in the 2008 Region 8 Exercise. After reviewing the submitted documentation, it looks like the exercise went extremely well. Relationships were built, plans practiced, good questions asked, and plans for revisions and next steps made.

This year's exercise was designed to test our plans and systems for responding to and recovering from a large scale disaster – in this case an influenza pandemic. The functional exercise was held from 8 a.m. – noon on May 20, 21, and 22<sup>nd</sup>. The time involved and exercise parameters made this a more

complex and challenging experience than in years past, with additional participants and a higher level of interaction between organizations.

Rules of the Game were sent to participants the Friday before play. Day One began with background information. This was followed by news reports and a health briefing of the world-wide situation. An influenza pandemic named Bugga Boo Flu was moving around the world, and had just come to Region 8. On Day Two, the region had been seeing large numbers of people and was in the midst of managing the outbreak locally. On Day Three, the

Bugga Boo Flu was on the decline, but a new wave was expected in the near future. Institutional governing bodies were asking for a cost accounting of the response and a projection of future needs.

Twelve hospitals, three community health clinic agencies, four local health jurisdictions, five county emergency management organizations, the Yakama Nation emergency management organization, one tribal health entity, and the Tri-Cities Lab participated. Region 8 Public Health staff served as the Simulation Cell.

The After Action Review is being created. A draft has been released, and **comments are due by 5 p.m., July 10<sup>th</sup>**. The final copy will be distributed in August. Each participating organization will receive one hard copy and two CD versions.

An additional THANK YOU goes to the Exercise Design Team: Jeanne Fasano, Betty Phipps, Sandy Irion, Harvey Crowder, and the Region 8 Public Health Team. Thanks!

Questions or Comments?  
Contact Leslie Koenig,  
[lesliek@bfhd.wa.gov](mailto:lesliek@bfhd.wa.gov) or 509.460.4530.

*Objectives*

- ✓ utilize the ICS as appropriate to your organization.
- ✓ Demonstrate communication strategies for sharing situational information internally and externally.
- ✓ Identify surge capacity within our healthcare system.
- ✓ utilize recovery policies and procedures within your agency's emergency response plan.

## *The Evolution of H7 Avian Influenza*

While most of the world's attention has been focused on the avian influenza virus H5N1, H7 avian influenza viruses have been causing a number of both highly pathogenic (HPAI) and low pathogenic (LPAI) avian influenza outbreaks in poultry in Europe and North America.

### **Recent Outbreaks**

On June 2<sup>nd</sup> this year an outbreak of H7 HPAI was detected in a 25,000 bird flock on a family-run free-range poultry farm in England. A day later, H7 LPAI was identified in an Arkansas flock. H7 AI viruses have occasionally infected humans, typically causing only mild conjunctivitis. But a veterinarian died of an H7N7 infection during the devastating poultry outbreaks in the Netherlands in 2003.

Avian influenza virus strains are not easily transmitted from birds to humans, in part because a receptor found in the human respiratory tract is not the same receptor that is found in birds. Viruses adapted to attach well to a specific receptor generally cannot attach well to others.



*A government vet disinfects his boots outside a bird flu-affected factory farm in Holton, Suffolk in 2007.*

### **Concern for Humans**

Scientists from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Emory University, and the Scripps Research Institute have found evidence that North American H7 avian influenza viruses are more easily attaching to host cells, which suggests they may be improving their capacity to infect humans.

The investigators found that several recent North American H7 viruses have an increased ability to bind to a type of receptor molecule that is abundant on human tracheal cells and is less common in birds. Their results were published in the *Proceedings of the National Academies of Science* (<http://www.pnas.org/cgi/reprint/105/21/7558.pdf>).

To study transmission, the researchers tested six H7 strains in ferrets to see if infection could be passed from one animal to another. (*Ferrets are used to study influenza because they are susceptible to most strains of influenza that infect humans. It causes similar symptoms and runs a similar course.*) Three of the six strains had increased ability to bind while one strain was able to spread from inoculated to un-inoculated animals. Unlike the others, this strain had caused respiratory rather than conjunctival infection in man, and showed the greatest affinity for the receptors. The ability to bind to these receptors may be one step in the evolution of a virus with pandemic potential.



**The study is a reminder that it's impossible to predict which flu virus will evolve into the next pandemic strain.**

<http://www.upmc-cbn.org/index.html>  
<http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/avianflu/news/may2808h7virus-jw.html>

## *Training and Education*

Training and education are vital components in developing and maintaining emergency response personnel and teams. To meet that need, Region 8 Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response provides training opportunities to our partners. These include in-person trainings, video or dvds, and web-based learning opportunities. New trainings and materials are added to the Region 8 library on a regular basis and by request.

### *In-person trainings include:*

#### **ICS 200: Incident Command for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents**

Training in the National Incident Management System continues for Region 8 partners. For those who've completed ICS 100, and would be involved in an incident response, ICS 200 is now available for in-person training. For more information or to schedule this four hour course, *contact Leslie Koenig 509.460.4530.*

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Disaster Planning for Hospitals Conference**

A case study-led conference on Best Practices to Emergency Preparation and Response

August 11-12, 2008 Washington, DC

<http://www.worldrg.com/showConference.cfm?confCode=hw08075>

### *On-line training and learning opportunities:*

#### **Talking with parents and patients about vaccinations**

A two-part webcast. Each segment is about 15 minutes long.

[http://cdlhn.com/create\\_frameset.cfm?id=68&CFID=1201582&CFTOKEN=73761208](http://cdlhn.com/create_frameset.cfm?id=68&CFID=1201582&CFTOKEN=73761208)

#### **Immunization Update 2008 August 7, 2008**

Don't miss this important annual update, highlighting current and late-breaking immunization issues. Registration information will be available soon on the CDC website.

Please visit <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/ed/broadcasts.htm#2>

#### **Homecare during an Influenza Pandemic July 8, 2008 11:00 am Webcast**

This is part of the HHS PlanFirst Webcast Series on Pandemic Influenza. More information, including archives of previous webcasts, can be found at: [http://www.pandemicflu.gov/news/panflu\\_webinar.html](http://www.pandemicflu.gov/news/panflu_webinar.html)

### *On-line resources:*

Advancing Public Health Emergency Preparedness and eliminating disparities for racial and ethnic communities is the goal of the **National Resource Center for Advancing Emergency Preparedness for Culturally Diverse Communities**. Along with serving as a clearing house and information exchange portal, this site provides links to multiple foreign language resources for public health issues. <http://www.diversitypreparedness.org>

#### **E-cards on health issues**

The CDC has e-cards for everything from Father's Day to Traveling Tips for those going to the Olympics in Beijing. Each has tips for healthy living.

<http://www2a.cdc.gov/eCards/browse.asp?act=brs&chkcategory=&keywords=&page=1>

### *From the video library :*

Contact Angela Seydel 509-460-4532 for the following programs.

#### **Adapting Standards of Care Under Extreme Conditions**

University at Albany, June 12, 2008, 1-2:15 p.m. [www.ualbanycphp.org/GRS/eventCurrent.cfm?id=104](http://www.ualbanycphp.org/GRS/eventCurrent.cfm?id=104)

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**Regional Websites**

**Benton-Franklin  
Health District**

[www.bfhd.wa.gov](http://www.bfhd.wa.gov)

**Klickitat County  
Health Department**

[www.klickitatcounty.org/health/](http://www.klickitatcounty.org/health/)

**Walla Walla County  
Health Department**

<http://www.co.walla-walla.wa.us/departments/phd/index.shtml>

**Yakima Health District**

[www.yakimapublichealth.org](http://www.yakimapublichealth.org)

**Pandemic Influenza  
Where are we now?**

**PHASE 3**

CDC  
July 2008

**West Nile Virus:2007 A Year in Review**

**National**

Last year, 43 states reported 3,623 human cases of West Nile Virus. Of those, 1,213 were positive for WN encephalitis and WN meningitis; severe diseases that affect a person's nervous system.



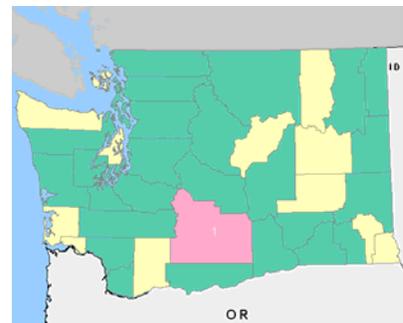
**Washington State**

In Washington, more human cases were expected in 2007. Instead, mild activity was reported, with a total of eight horses, one bird and one dog. The weather, public awareness of WNV and personal protection, mosquito control, and environmental conditions likely lead to the very mild WNV activity.

Veterinary



Bird



Maps found at [http://diseasemaps.usgs.gov/wnv\\_historical.html](http://diseasemaps.usgs.gov/wnv_historical.html)

**Region 8**

Region 8 is comprised of Benton, Franklin, Klickitat, Walla Walla, and Yakima counties. All 2007 WNV cases were reported in Yakima.

For more information:

**Public Health**

- <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/index.htm>
- <http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/ts/Zoo/WNV/WNV.html>
- <http://www.bfhd.wa.gov/wnv/index.php>  
<http://www.co.yakima.wa.us/health/commhealth/vwnv.htm>

**Mosquito Control**

Benton County Mosquito Control District  
<http://www.mosquitocontrol.org/pgs/home.html>

Franklin County Mosquito Control District  
<http://www.fcmed.org/>

**Walla Walla County Health District Move**

Walla Walla County Health Department's Personal Health, Administration, and WIC offices relocated to a newly remodeled building on June 16, 2008. Formerly a truck dealership, the County Shops, Public Works, and a variety of other County organizations the historic building was completely gutted and a new building built inside the old brick walls. The building provides dedicated clinic and office spaces in a clean modern environment.

As always, tours available upon request.

