



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

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NEW COUNTY PANDEMIC FLU WEBSITE ADDRESSES QUESTIONS, CONCERNS

County of San Diego Pandemic Influenza Response Plan is One of Many Key Resources Available

A new website aimed at answering questions and concerns regarding avian influenza ("bird flu") now seen in Asia, and the threat of a highly pathogenic virus causing an influenza pandemic, is now available to the general public and local health providers.

The website, www.sdpanicflu.org, provides important health information that includes answers to frequently asked questions on pandemic and avian influenzas; information for healthcare providers; what is being done in San Diego County; links to local, state, and federal pandemic influenza response plans; and other links and resources. The website is administered by the San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency.

"This is an important tool for educating our residents on pandemic influenzas," said Nancy Bowen, M.D., County Public Health Officer. "The information on the website will help residents become better educated on what pandemic flu is, learn how to protect themselves from it, and provide them with key resources."

Bowen encourages the public to become familiar with the website. One of the many important resources on the site is the *County of San Diego Pandemic Influenza Response Plan*. The local plan addresses critical elements recommended by the World Health Organization and the National Strategy for Pandemic Influenza, including preparedness and communication, surveillance and detection, and response and containment.

The website will be updated frequently to keep residents informed on the latest developments, said Bowen. At this time, there are no animal or human cases of influenza in the United States caused by the specific avian virus that has the international community and health officials alarmed.

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