

2007 NIEHS WETP Trainers' Exchange Post-Conference Proceedings

1. Session Title and Presenter's Contact Information

Avian and Pandemic Influenza *Disaster/Emergency Response and Preparedness*

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2. Workshop Summary

This workshop provided a look at the IAFF's newly developed module on Avian influenza and pandemics designed for first responders. The module can be used as a one and one-half hour stand-alone training or as part of the revised Infectious Diseases curriculum. The appendix includes a shift-based program with three lessons designed for use within fire departments by in-house facilitators. The objective was for participants to examine the instructor guide/student manual and provide feedback on the content and student-centered activities.

3. Methods

The Avian and Pandemic Influenza module is instructor-led and includes guided discussions, brainstorming, and practice using personal protective equipment. Topics of discussion include definitions/descriptions of Avian influenza, seasonal flu, epidemics, and pandemics; the effects of a pandemic on the fire house, fire fighter, family, town/city, and nation; fire department readiness, the role of the safety officer; personal protection; patient care and transport; decontaminating equipment; and vaccinations.

The instructor must have expertise in the topics of discussion and emergency response as well as the ability to facilitate student-centered activities. If

available, the instructor should obtain and make copies of the department's standard operating procedures related to infectious diseases, Avian influenza, and epidemics/pandemics.

4. Main Points

Key lessons

- IAFF Avian and Pandemic Influenza curriculum focuses on learning:
 - The big picture of how a pandemic may affect students' community, fire house and family
 - Personal protection
 - Decontamination.
- The curriculum uses student-centered activities.

Responses from participants

- Highlight the difference between seasonal flu, Avian flu, epidemics, and pandemics.
- Need to stress the importance of having a plan to ensure readiness for a pandemic.
- Include recent developments in the Avian Flu and its global impact. For example, the location of the production of disposable respirators is often in the countries of Southeast Asia where the Avian Flu will hit.
- Emphasize why it's important to learn about the Avian flu and pandemics.

5. References

IAFF Pandemic Flu Resources for First Responders www.iaff.org/pandemicflu includes the training modules, facilitator guides and other information regarding the Avian flu and a potential pandemic.

6. Workshop Handouts/Resources

Handout: Instructor Guide/Student Manual, Unit 5: Avian & Pandemic Influenza of the Infectious Diseases Course
Appendices for Unit 5: Avian & Pandemic Influenza of the Infectious Diseases Course (Appendices - Avian and Pandemic Influenza 2007.pdf)

Resources: Avian and Pandemic Influenza PowerPoint Presentation (Avian Flu NIEHS Trainers Exchange 2007 PPT.pdf)