

COLUMBUS STATE UNIVERSITY

PANDEMIC INFLUENZA EMERGENCY PLAN



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FOREWARD

This document is part of the Columbus State University Emergency Management Plan, and should be viewed as one component of a larger, more extensive emergency response plan.

I. Background

Influenza A viruses have the ability to infect many different animals including ducks, chickens, pigs, whales, horses, and seals. Influenza A viruses normally seen in one species can sometimes cross over and cause illness in another species. This creates the possibility that a new virus will develop, either through mutation or mixing of individual viruses, in turn creating the possibility for new viral strains that can be highly infective, readily transmissible and highly lethal in humans. When a pandemic virus strain emerges, 25% to 35% of the population could develop clinical disease, and a substantial fraction of these individuals could die.

II. Purpose

CSU has created this Pandemic Influenza Emergency Plan to help the campus prepare and respond to a pandemic influenza outbreak. The purpose of this Plan is to describe specific action to be taken by the University in the event of an influenza outbreak. The Plan should be implemented in accordance with the CSU Emergency Management Plan and used to advise the community about the campus response to an influenza pandemic. The PIPP encompasses the various aspects of communication and education, preparedness, emergency response, and the recovery and maintenance efforts to take place in the event of an influenza pandemic.

The development of this document is based on the following assumptions:

- In the event of an influenza pandemic the State of Georgia's Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) will have minimal resources available for onsite local assistance and therefore local authorities and institutions will be responsible for community-specific response plans.
- The federal government has limited resources allocated for State of Georgia and local plan implementation, and therefore the State will provide supplementary resources in the event of pandemic influenza, which may include the redirection of personnel and monetary resources from other programs.
- The federal government has assumed the responsibility for developing materials and guidelines, including basic communication materials for the

general public on influenza, influenza vaccine, antiviral agents, and other relevant topics in various languages; information and guidelines for health care providers; and training modules. This information is now available at the following website: <http://www.pandemicflu.gov>.

- A novel influenza virus strain will likely emerge in a country other than the United States, but could emerge first in the United States and possibly in Georgia.
- It is likely that moderate or severe shortages of vaccine will exist early in the course of a pandemic and also possible that no vaccine will be available.
- The supply of antiviral medications used for prevention and treatment of influenza will be limited.

III. World Health Organization (WHO) Pandemic Response Alert Phases

The World Health Organization has established six pandemic influenza response alert phases as part of its Global Influenza Preparedness Plan (see **Table 1** below).

TABLE 1 – World Health Organization Pandemic Response Phases

PHASES	PUBLIC HEALTH GOALS
Interpandemic period	
<p>Phase 1. No new influenza virus subtypes have been detected in humans. An influenza virus subtype that has caused human infection may be present in animals. If present in animals, the risk of human infection or disease is considered to be low.</p>	<p>Strengthen influenza pandemic preparedness at the global, regional, national and subnational levels.</p>
<p>Phase 2. No new influenza virus subtypes have been detected in humans. However, a circulating animal influenza virus subtype poses a substantial risk of human disease.</p>	<p>Minimize the risk of transmission to humans; detect and report such transmission rapidly if it occurs.</p>
Pandemic alert period	
<p>Phase 3. Human infection(s) with a new subtype, but no human-to-human spread, or at most rare instances of spread to a close contact.</p>	<p>Ensure rapid characterization of the new virus subtype and early detection, notification and response to additional cases.</p>
<p>Phase 4. Small cluster(s) with limited human-to-human transmission but spread is highly localized, suggesting that the virus is not well adapted to humans.</p>	<p>Contain the new virus within limited foci or delay spread to gain time to implement preparedness measures, including vaccine development.</p>

Phase 5. Larger cluster(s) but human-to-human spread still localized, suggesting that the virus is becoming increasingly better adapted to humans, but may not yet be fully transmissible (substantial pandemic risk).

Maximize efforts to contain or delay spread, to possibly avert a pandemic, and to gain time to implement pandemic response measures.

Pandemic period

Phase 6. Pandemic: increased and sustained transmission in general population.

Minimize the impact of the pandemic.

The world is presently in **Phase 3**: a new influenza virus subtype is causing disease in humans, but is not yet spreading efficiently and sustainably among humans.

IV. CSU Pandemic Influenza Alert Matrix

In response to the WHO Pandemic Response Alert Phases and in consultation with the Georgia Department of Health and Human Services, CSU has established the following alert matrix for our Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Plan (see [Table 2](#)).

TABLE 2 – CSU Pandemic Influenza Alert Matrix

What type of transmission is confirmed?	Where are the cases?	Are there cases at CSU?	Alert Level
None or sporadic cases only	Anywhere in the world	No	Preparation
Person-to-person transmission	Anywhere outside North America	No	1
Person-to-person transmission	Anywhere in North America; Alert level change will be made as advised by local EMA, GEMA, FEMA or BOR	No	2
Person-to-person transmission	At CSU	Yes	3

TABLE 3 – CSU Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Matrix

Emergency Support Function (ESF)	Preparation	Alert Level 1 Anywhere outside North America	Alert Level 2 As advised by Local EMA, GEMA, FEMA or BOR (In addition to Level 1 actions)	Alert Level 3 At CSU (In addition to Level 2 actions)
<p>ESF: Direction and Control</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor national situation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage campus community to follow U.S. government guidelines on foreign travel. • Monitor national situation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider possible restrictions to vendors, visitors and conferences/group activities. • The President's Cabinet will meet at least weekly to review the situation as the pandemic progresses and provide updates to the campus. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In conjunction with the Board of Regents' recommendations, the Emergency Operations Team will recommend to the President's Cabinet restricting access to certain high-density/high-use buildings in order to prevent the spread of pandemic influenza. • The Emergency Operations Team will recommend that activities at campus eateries (e.g., cafeterias, coffee shops) and other shops be suspended. • The EOT will recommend suspension of activities, including sporting events, arts performances, and classes. • In conjunction with the Board of Regents' recommendations, the EOT may recommend to the President's Cabinet to close the University as a means to prevent the further spread of pandemic influenza.

Emergency Support Function (ESF)	Preparation	Alert Level 1 Anywhere outside North America	Alert Level 2 As advised by Local EMA, GEMA, FEMA or BOR (In addition to Level 1 actions)	Alert Level 3 At CSU (In addition to Level 2 actions)
ESF-1: Communication and Alerting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify essential staff that can maintain the College Communications system. Update the CSU homepage as appropriate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor situation and respond as needed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advise CSU personnel, including faculty, staff, students and visitors, who have fever and cough to defer attending school or visiting the institution until their illness has resolved through e-mail or CSU website. Monitor situation and respond as needed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor situation and respond as needed.
ESF-2: Law Enforcement and Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify essential staff that will be available in the event of an influenza pandemic. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor situation and respond as needed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor situation and respond as needed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> With guidance from Board of Regents, implement quarantine recommendations of non-ill contacts. Secure buildings that have been designated for closure by Emergency Operations Team.
ESF-3: Muscogee County Health Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mutual Aid Agreement is in place. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mutual Aid Agreement is in place. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mutual Aid Agreement is in place. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be prepared to turn over Wellness Center and Gymnasium to Muscogee County Health Department for dispensing and vaccination.
ESF-4: Georgia Emergency Management Agency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mutual Aid Agreement is in place. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mutual Aid Agreement is in place. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mutual Aid Agreement is in place. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be prepared to “do what is reasonably possible to assist in times of statewide emergency.”