

Pandemic Flu Planning/Use of City Facilities and Staff for Public Health Emergencies

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Est. Completion Date: TBD.

Synopsis: Public Health is the local lead agency for Bioterrorism and Pandemic Flu planning. Public Health is working with the City to identify Medication Centers/Points of Dispensing (POD) for the purpose of providing medicine/vaccine for prophylaxis as well as to address other associated needs, such as, volunteer coordination, Disaster Service Worker status for City employees, and response to a Pandemic Flu. On August 23, 2007, at a County/City Joint Meeting, the County asked the City to consider use of the San Jose Convention Center as a potential Influenza Care Center (ICC). To date, 14 PODS (10 community centers, San José Fire Training Center and 3 County health facilities) have been identified. Discussions continue between County and City staff to identify ICCs and more PODs.

County View: Strong coordination between the Public Health Department and the City Office of Emergency Services (OES) on bioterrorism and pandemic planning and response is necessary. Public Health is responsible for developing a plan for mass prophylaxis and for determining when to activate our plans for the care of healthy people during a bioterrorism event. It is also responsible for developing a plan for medical care of pandemic victims and coordinating with cities and other partners to meet the needs of ill people and taking measures to limit the spread of disease.

The City is responsible for nominating Medication Centers (POD locations for distribution of mass prophylaxis). The City also has a role in helping to identify Influenza Care Center (ICC) locations. In addition, it is responsible for providing staffing support of PODs and ICCs. The City and County must work together to ensure each POD site and ICC are operationally ready. This includes strong coordination to procure supplies and equipment, identify and plan for prophylaxis of first responders including Disaster Service Workers and volunteers, and provide testing of plans and training of staff. Six large facilities countywide need to be identified to serve as ICCs. While the original number of PODS needed by the City was estimated at 45 based on modeling from software provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, this number is now being reviewed based on City capacity, geography, and different modalities now available to deliver medications including drive- thru PODs, closed PODS such as colleges or large businesses, and even use of the USPS is now being discussed in greater detail.

Other related coordination issues include logistics oversight (traffic and security), procurement of supplies, communications, volunteer coordination, Joint Information Center (JIC), exercises and drills, and the use of City Disaster Service Workers.

Citizen preparedness for disasters including Pandemic Flu is critical to an effective response to any disaster. San Jose has a strong neighborhood association structure with ties to the city. Public

Health needs to work much more closely with these neighborhood groups in collaboration with the City.

The County and City have been meeting since March 2008 to discuss mass prophylaxis planning. As of July 1, 2008, discussions have centered around identification of additional POD and drive-thru sites, strategies for approaching large businesses (closed PODs), and addressing the various security needs for all methods of dispensing. The County SNS Coordinator is working closely with the San Jose Police representative to address planning and equipment needs associated with one model POD site.

The County will approach the City of San Jose to begin discussions about possible ICC sites. While the Convention Center was discussed early on, there may be alternatives within the City that may fit the federal guidelines for alternate care sites. These include but are not limited to armories, large gymnasiums, civic sports centers, schools, hotel conference rooms, and health clubs. The County is committed to working with City of San Jose planners to identify optimal site(s) that meet federal guidelines for alternate care sites.

On August 19, 2008, County Public Health, San Jose OES and Team San Jose met to review the Convention Center's capacity to function as an ICC. The Convention Center meets most of the ICC criteria and follow-up meetings will be held to explore opportunities to partner with area hotels to ensure full capacity to perform all ICC functions.

On November 19th, 2008, representatives from County Public Health met with SJPD to begin detailed planning for a drive-through POD at the HP pavilion site.

On February 9, 2009, County Public Health, San Jose OES, Team San Jose met with the general manager of the Marriot hotel to discuss logistic support to the Convention Center in the event of its use as an ICC. The role of hotels in a support function to ICCs was further discussed at the May 5, 2009 meeting of hotel general managers held at the Convention Center. A follow up meeting will be scheduled with this group to allow for a longer question/answer session with Dr. Martin Fenstersheib.

On August 28, 2009, Dr. Martin Fensterhsheib met with Chief Joseph Carrillo to present an overview of progress to date for both mass prophylaxis and pandemic flu.

On September 16th, the Public Health Department will hold a conference call with Stephanie Morrison of Team San Jose and will follow up with a meeting with San Jose Hotel Mangers on September 22nd to answer questions related to alternate care centers.

The SNS coordinator continues to work with State and Federal contacts to obtain information on USPS delivery routes in San Jose to assist in planning for the delivery of medication.

For the past several months, Public Health activities have been focused on H1N1 Pandemic Influenza planning and response. H1N1 is expected to be a Public Health priority through the Spring of 2010. The SNS Coordinator has made initial contact with the new OES Director for city of San

Jose. Public Health and SJ OES will continue their mass prophylaxis planning efforts as soon as H1N1 activities subside.

City View: Significant progress has been made on the entire range of Public Health initiatives beginning in Spring 2007. Beginning in March 2008, City and County staff have met regularly to plan Points of Dispensing centers. Topics are divided between initiatives to keep healthy people well and providing treatment to people who are ill.

Those who are Healthy

The City and County have collaborated on three major preparedness activities: planning; training and exercises; and purchase of equipment and supplies.

Planning – In order to provide timely service to a city of almost 1,000,000 residents, San José plans to use multiple models to deliver medicine to keep healthy people well. A drive-thru model is currently the most efficient model; fixed sites will also be necessary to provide service to residents without cars and to vulnerable populations. San José has also begun to explore drive-thru models with local shopping centers. San José has identified 10 fixed sites and 2 drive-thru sites as its initial effort, with more under consideration. The addition of drive-thru sites may reduce the total number of fixed sites needed because drive-thru sites have a higher capacity. Key milestones in recent planning efforts include:

- ❖ City and County staff met with the General Manager of the Marriott on February 9 to discuss the use of hotels attached to the Convention Center as components of the Influenza Care Center. During this discussion, concerns about liability and reimbursement to the hotels were raised as challenges needing resolution. As a result of this meeting:
 - City and County staff have been invited to the quarterly meeting of the Hotel General Managers on April 28 to continue this conversation.
 - City staff contacted Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region IX and California’s Emergency Management Agency (CalEMA) Coastal Region to initiate a conversation about liability and financial reimbursement to hotels.
- ❖ City and County staff continue to evaluate the feasibility of a USPS initiative to use mail carriers accompanied by uniformed police officers to dispense limited amounts of pharmaceuticals during the first 12 hours of a medical emergency.

Training and Exercises – With regular support by San José’s public safety departments, Santa Clara County Public Health has taken the lead on facilitating exercises to support pandemic flu planning. San José OES has also invested in training to support this initiative.

- ❖ On March 19, 2009, County Public Health sponsored Santa Clara County observers during a regional mass prophylaxis exercise at the Oracle Arena in Oakland. Staff from San José OES, PD, and the HP Pavilion participated.
- ❖ On March 30, 2009 County Public Health hosted a countywide tabletop exercise on pandemic flu planning mandated by the State. San José OES and Fire participated, along

with hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, the County Sheriff's Office, AMR and other Emergency Medical Services agencies, and Red Cross.

- ❖ On November 6 & 7, 2008, San José OES staff attended a class on pandemic flu preparedness.

Pharmaceuticals and Supplies – San Jose has invested \$1.45 million from multiple grant sources to bolster the region's immediate ability to respond to a natural or terrorist event until the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) of pharmaceuticals can arrive. Specifically, San Jose:

- ❖ Spent \$700,000 of the 2004 Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) grant to purchase pharmaceuticals and supplies to prepare for pandemic flu.
- ❖ Spent \$236,000 from the 2006 Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS) grant to replace outdated pharmaceuticals.
- ❖ Spent \$200,000 from the 2007 MMRS grant to support this initiative.
- ❖ Is spending \$320,000 by the federal government on July 25, 2008 for its 2008 MMRS grant.

Those who are Ill

The two primary areas under discussion are the redeployment of City employees during an influenza pandemic and the use of City facilities as influenza care centers.

Redeployment of City Employees – During a pandemic, San José must identify which employees would be available for redeployment to staff public health facilities. With Human Resources Department as the lead, San José issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) to develop a pandemic flu plan for its departments and city staff; responses were received on July 18, 2008 and were evaluated as non-responsive. A Second RFP was issued, with a contract awarded to URS in January 2009. Final deliverables are being negotiated and should be final in April 2009. A key deliverable from the resulting contract will be the identification of those groups of employees who would be available for redeployment. As a second step, employees must also receive appropriate training for their new roles and responsibilities.

Use of City Facilities as Influenza Care Centers – In order to care for people who need intravenous rehydration or oxygen, Santa Clara County Public Health proposes to set up influenza care centers. City-owned facilities may serve as expedient influenza care centers, though may not be the most desirable solution due to lack of laundry facilities and private baths. The County asked the City to consider use of the San José Convention Center as a potential influenza care center and continue to meet to discuss this potential use. During the February 9 meeting with the Marriott, City and County staff were surprised to learn that there are no on-site laundry facilities at the complex; laundry services are contracted out.