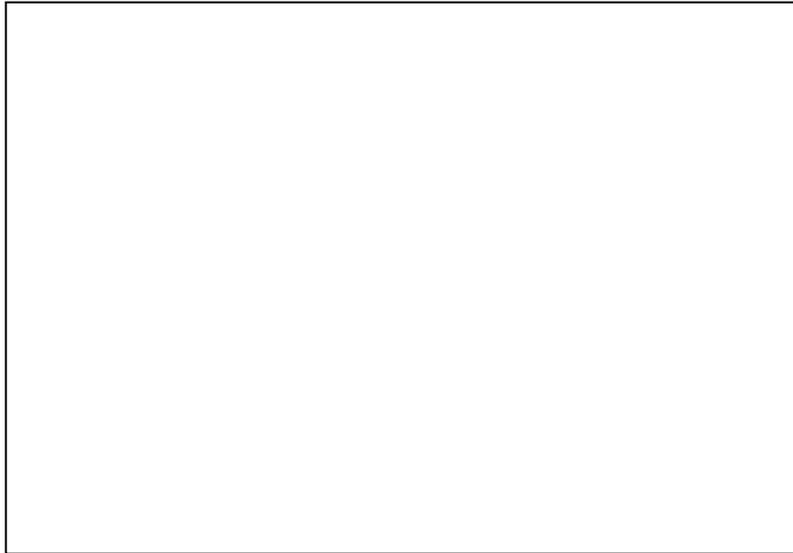




Commonwealth of Virginia Cabinet (TTX) 9/4/07 HHS PanFlu Plan Review



Participants

- **PLAYERS (65):** Respond to the situations as presented based on experience and knowledge as well as the current plans and procedures utilized within their agencies.
 - Governor and direct reports
 - Lt. Governor's Office
 - Office of Attorney General
 - Secretariats and/or designated Deputies and State Agency decision-makers
- **Support Staff (15)**
 - **FACILITATORS:** Provide situation updates, moderate group discussions and provide additional information or answer questions as required.
 - **OBSERVERS:** Support the functional groups in developing responses to the situation in the caucus sessions; however, they do not participate in the moderated discussion period.
 - **DATA COLLECTORS:** Observe and document discussions, actions and decisions of the players that are directly related to the exercise objectives.



Key Strengths

- Enhanced coordination among Commonwealth officials
- Ability of officials to adjust to changing events, response, recovery
- Opportunity to practice NIMS / NRF in a Pandemic event
- In-depth examination and identification of legal and ethical issues.
- Consideration of action trigger points and draft Executive Orders
- Identification of enhancements to an assortment of issues
- Effective training and learning experience involving discussions and decision-making
- Recognition of the need for continued interagency coordination
 - ID procedural and policy gaps
 - Validation of agency emergency roles and responsibilities
 - Recognition of resource needs and supply chain availability
 - Need to modify emergency plans and procedures
 - increased awareness of Continuity of Government issues at the State level.

Opportunities for Improvement

- Refine human resource, purchasing, and financial management guidelines during high absenteeism.
- Improve Executive Office familiarity on Continuity of Government plans and policies.
- Define and determine “essential personnel” in consideration of a protracted event and assure measures are in place to provide for augmentation personnel and cross-training.
- Identify state, local government and private sector essential infrastructure and services.
- Consider Enforcement and Inspection waivers.

Improvement (cont'd.)

- Evaluate legality of suspending FOIA laws pertaining to electronic meetings, quorums and public meeting requirements. Determine if meeting requirements can be suspended, waived or modified so that state boards can meet on the telephone or electronically.
- Continue to evaluate and refine social distancing and public countermeasures.
- Prioritize supply chain services and resources to ensure essential needs are met
- Resolve misconceptions on responsibilities for fatality management.
- Proactively work with the media in delivering educational information to the public.
- Pursue improvements to telework policies / capabilities.

Improvement (cont'd.)

- Key areas prominently identified as requiring additional evaluation:
 - Antiviral and Vaccine Prioritization
 - Continuity of Government
 - Equipment Needs
 - Fatality Management
 - Finance
 - Human Resources
 - Infrastructure
 - Inspection and Enforcement Waivers
 - Legal Issues
 - Media/Public Communications
 - Schools
 - Social Distancing
 - Social Services and Mental Health
 - Telework
 - Transportation

Additional Drills

- NGA Region III TTX
- LHD Mass Vacc Exercises
 - 12,000 doses
 - 18 Districts
 - 30+ PODs
 - Data Collection
 - Process time
 - Demographic
 - CDC Countermeasure Response Administration

Next Steps

- CDC / VDH SNS Exercise (Aug '08)
- FLUEX '08 (October '08)
 - Statewide / Multi-agency Functional Exercise
 - Large COOP component
 - Invite neighboring states & Feds
 - Repeat Mass Local Vaccination Exercises
 - Look for significant private sector play

HHS PanFlu Plan Review

- Review received 11/7/07
- Updating Plan based on HHS Input
- Plans will be resubmitted for review in May
 - To be reviewed by Sep
- Mass Fatality singular issue with which VA. took exception
- All focus areas rated > national average
- *Per Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act of 2006 financial penalties could result.*

Review Focus Areas

- Mass Vaccination
- PH COOP
- Surveillance and Lab.
- Communication
- Healthcare Coalitions
- Medical Surge
- Fatality Management
- Antiviral Distribution
- Comm. Containment
- School Closure
 - Process / COOP / Impact
- Critical Infrastructure
 - Critical Services
- NIMS Compliance
- Private Sector Assistance
 - Worker and employer
- HR Policies
 - Employment, leave, etc.
- LE Coordination
- Food Safety
- Foreign / Diplomatic relations

Performance Metrics

- Protocols / collection tools developed for measuring:
 - Agency-wide call down times
 - Participant Response (Show) Times
 - SNS standard & CRI POD / Mass Vacc Processing Times
 - LHD Assessments using VDH and CDC (Rand) assessment tools.