



DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

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July 15, 2009

Dear Facility Director:

As I'm sure you are aware we are currently experiencing an influenza pandemic. Although Ross County appears to have been spared H1N1 influenza cases so far, if this outbreak holds true to past pandemics we will experience a "second wave" this fall/winter which will be a good deal more severe.

The Ross County Health District is working to coordinate the local response and to inform and educate our partners and the public in general. There is no way to prevent an influenza pandemic, but there are ways to lessen its impact. A second wave may begin as early as September or October and could lead to school and child care center closings, hospital overcrowding and a significant number of people sick with the flu. High absenteeism may cause challenges for some area employers.

We do not expect a vaccine for H1N1 until well after the flu season has begun.

Your facility could see an additional amount of sickness in its residents and may face increased absenteeism in your workforce - which is not a pleasant combination. I'm sure that I don't need to tell you how you may limit the transmission of influenza, but you might want to consider how visitation and other methods may allow the virus to be brought into your facility, as well as what protective measures can be taken by your staff.

I cannot stress enough the importance of a plan addressing pandemic influenza and the challenges it may present. I've included a planning checklist created by the US Department of Health and Human Service and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and some other information. I am also working to add information and links to our Website: www.rosscountyhealth.com/panflu.htm. I am attempting to add information and links that may apply to your facility as well.

If I, or anyone from the health district can be of service or assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Rami Yoakum
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