Scenario 1

SCENARIO:
In your region, there have been several misconceptions and conflicting messages being disseminated about the use of antivirals in a pandemic. The Pandemic Influenza Response Plans of the different jurisdictions in your region all indicate that federal and state guidance will be followed with regard to distribution and use of antivirals. However, the messages from the municipal leadership of the jurisdictions vary widely.

PLAYERS:
Key representatives from two local health departments in your region

TASK:
Develop a unified communication strategy to manage misconceptions and inconsistencies and to provide a cohesive message within the region with regard to use and distribution of antivirals.

ASSUMPTIONS:
Failures in communication may occur because:

- There is inadequate knowledge and understanding of the topic.
- Key issues related to the use of antiviral medications continue to evolve leading to mixed messages from federal and state bodies.
- There is lack of agreement between key stakeholders with regard to the current policy.
- Messages are often guided by political leadership.
- There is lack of agreement between key stakeholders.
Scenario 2

SCENARIO:
In your region, there have been many misconceptions about how antivirals will be distributed to first responders and medical personnel. The state health department has designated that local health departments will be responsible for deciding whether they will provide antivirals for treatment or for prophylaxis and treatment for first responders and medical personnel. Local health department A in your region plans to provide antiviral prophylaxis as well as treatment at the onset of a pandemic influenza outbreak; whereas local health department B in your region has designated that antivirals will be used for treatment only. Some municipalities in the region who will not be receiving antivirals for prophylaxis from their local health department still have plans that specify administering them for prophylaxis to first responders and medical personnel.

PLAYERS:
Key representatives of at least two municipalities and the two local health departments in your region

TASK:
First responders in a couple of municipalities have threatened a work slowdown after discovering that they will not receive antivirals for prophylaxis while responders in neighboring municipalities will receive them. You must discuss and decide whether antivirals will be provided to first responders and medical personnel in the event of a pandemic influenza outbreak for:
   a) prophylaxis
   b) treatment
   c) prophylaxis and treatment

ASSUMPTIONS:
Prophylaxis refers to measures taken to prevent rather than treat or cure illness.

When used as prophylaxis, to be effective, antivirals must be taken continuously throughout the pandemic influenza outbreak.

Any antivirals provided would have to be bought with local funds. Local funding varies.

Failures in communication occur because of:
- There is inadequate knowledge and understanding of the topic.
- Key issues related to the use of antiviral medications continue to evolve leading to mixed messages from federal and state bodies.
- There is lack of agreement between key stakeholders with regard to the current policy.
- Messages are often guided by political leadership.
- There is lack of agreement between key stakeholders.
SCENARIO:
In your region, there are two local health departments and a hospital system with hospitals in both jurisdictions. Each health department has a different system for collecting surveillance data to detect influenza outbreaks. Hospitals in the region are expected to submit data to their respective health department. The hospital system spanning both jurisdictions agrees to the importance of surveillance data collection but does not want to be required to use different data systems.

PLAYERS:
Key representatives of the two local health departments in the region and the administrators of this hospital system

TASK:
You have come together to address this issue.

ASSUMPTIONS:
Local health department A has decided to use a proprietary data collection system that can be funded by local tax payers and matching private funds. Local health department B has decided to use a standards-based system funded by federal grant funds.

There are many “right” ways to collect surveillance data, and there is often resistance to changing current systems that work well.

Many stakeholders drive the decision-making process.
SCENARIO:
In your region, there are two local health departments and a hospital system with hospitals in both jurisdictions. Each department has its own way of conducting business, and not surprisingly, there has been a lack of coordination related to pandemic influenza planning. Local health department A in the region has planned to set up alternative care centers within its jurisdiction in the event of a pandemic influenza outbreak; whereas the local health department B does not plan to set up alternative care centers. The hospital system spanning both jurisdictions is not certain how to handle this inconsistency within their hospital network.

PLAYERS:
Key representatives of the two local health departments in the region and the administrators of this hospital system.

TASK:
You have come together to address this issue.

ASSUMPTIONS:
Alternative care centers are locations set up for the delivery of medical care outside of the hospital setting for patients who, under normal circumstances, would be treated as inpatients in hospital settings. For the purposes of this scenario, these centers will permit the offloading of less ill patients from nearby hospitals, thereby increasing the hospitals’ surge capacity.

Alternative care centers are believed to be a viable strategy in the event of a pandemic and are key components of the response plans of many jurisdictions.

Alternative care centers will significantly increase surge capacity of hospitals.