State of Ohio
PIO / JIC
Pandemic Influenza
Functional Exercise

September 28, 2006

Exercise Purpose

- To fulfill exercise requirement for ODH for pandemic flu preparedness.
- To test Ohio EMA communications plan and provide feedback for updates to the plan.
- To practice a joint information center.
- To work together.

Exercise Overview

- 8:30  Registration
- 8:45  Exercise orientation
- 9 a.m. Exercise begins
- 1 p.m. Exercise ends
- 1 p.m. Working lunch and hot wash
Exercise Assumptions

- Scenario is meant to simulate a distinct period of time and will have an associated timeline.
- Scenario is plausible and has been reviewed by medical and exercise subject matter experts.

Exercise Allowances

- Suspend disbelief and participate vigorously.
- Not in actual Ohio EMA JIC.
- Not everyone would be here.
- Compressed time frame.
- Not exercising some real-world tasks (ICS).
- Not performing a normal task or for your agency.
- SimCell = the outside world.

Exercise Terms

- SimCell (Simulation Cell): location where messages are generated for exercise; location of simulators.
- Functional exercise: simulates an event as realistically as possible w/o deploying resources.
- Participants today include players, evaluators, simulators, observers and a controller.
Exercise Participants

- Players: would respond in an actual event.
- Evaluators: observe actions and help determine if exercise objectives are met.
- Simulators: assume the role of outside agencies or staff to provide messages or answers.
- Observers: watch the exercise.
- Controller: ensures exercise is conducted within the time schedule and according to objectives.

Participants’ Name Tags

- Players: Blue
- Evaluators: Green
- Simulators: White
- Observers: Yellow
- Controller: White

- Players: write the job assignment you receive

Exercise Logistics

- Use the SimCell to simulate any action you would do outside the JIC, such as faxing, e-mailing or calling for information.
- The SimCell is in the Ohio EMA JIC near the EOC. Drop off faxes or e-mails there, otherwise use phones.
- Evaluators won’t typically ask players questions; players may indicate to an evaluator what they are doing if it is not apparent and needs to be shared.
**Exercise Objectives**

1. Communications leadership from affected agencies should quickly and efficiently activate a joint information center (JIC) following notification of an emergency.

2. JIC staff should notify agencies and media quickly and efficiently once the JIC has been activated and be prepared to operate a media telephone line at that time.

**Exercise Objectives**

3. Within two hours of notification of emergency, JIC staff should conduct a news conference and subsequent briefings in a timely manner.

4. JIC leadership should maintain effective staff and information management according to Ohio EMA and JIC communications plans.

**Exercise Objectives**

5. JIC staff should prepare written products that are accurate and well-written in a timely and consistent manner.

6. JIC staff should effectively orient and brief incoming players to the exercise as they would during normal JIC operation.
Human cases of highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza have been reported in several Asian and European countries.

The World Health Organization reports the number of cases exceeds 200 with the fatality rate to humans contracting the disease at about 50 percent.

To date, there have been no cases of Asian strain H5N1 in birds or humans in the United States.

In early April, the Thursday before Easter, Mrs. Fredrick's first-grade class visits the Rolling Ridge Ranch and Animal Park in Millersburg, in Holmes County.

There, the children from her class and other field-trip groups enjoy the horse-drawn wagon tour and the petting zoo.

The ducklings, chicks, calves and bunnies are the favorite attractions.

Young children and adults alike enjoy the unseasonably warm weather with highs in the upper 70s.

A cold front in the coming days is expected to cool the temperature significantly.
On the Monday after Easter, 12 of the children who were on the field trip begin to show signs of illness, including diarrhea.

One mother takes her child to the family doctor and is told if the child isn’t better the next day, to go to the hospital and call the doctor.

Three children and their parents arrive at the Pomerene Hospital in Millersburg early in the day. The children suffer from diarrhea and abdominal cramping. Specimens are taken to the hospital lab for tests.

Another lab, the Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory at the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) completes routine surveillance testing for Exotic Newcastle Disease and Avian Influenza on samples from dead waterfowl brought in the previous day from a rural area in Holmes County.

The samples from the ODA lab were forwarded yesterday to the National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) in Ames, Iowa for confirmation.

NVSL is nearly complete with its testing at the end of the business day.
On his arrival to the office Thursday morning, the state veterinarian, Dr. Forshey of ODA receives information from the U.S. Department of Agriculture …

The Holmes County waterfowl have been confirmed by NVSL to be infected with Asian strain, highly pathogenic H5N1.

USDA will issue a statement at the Iowa lab 10 a.m.

Dr. Forshey immediately notifies Director Dailey of ODA.

By 8:30 a.m., the information has been routed to the governor’s office and directors Morkel, Dragani and Baird of Public Safety, Ohio EMA and Health.

It has been decided the news conference will take place at Ohio EMA. Each of you have reported to that location and are here now, as of (the current time).

Drs. DiOrio and Forshey are here to help you on medical and agricultural matters if you need. It is assumed they would be present at the location of the news conference assisting in the preparation.

Staff in the SimCell will provide you with other information as you need it. You won’t need to call your offices for information. Conduct your activities this morning according to your response plans or as your experience guides you. You may begin.