

WIDE-SPREAD INFLUENZA OUTBREAKS OR PANDEMIC – IMPACT ON SCHOOLS AND EDUCATION SYSTEM

Essential Elements of Information – (EEI) for

EEI contain Situational Awareness information on People, Systems, and Services Providers that is critical to acquire in the first and perhaps second operational periods. **Specific elements listed here may not apply in every event. Additional elements must be generated and refined as the event evolves through Recovery.**

Reference: This EEI is an augmentation to the EEI prepared for WIDE-SPREAD INFLUENZA OUTBREAKS OR PANDEMIC.

Impact of Event or Scenario

Unlike information that may be needed in Pandemic Phase 4, at the beginning of a widespread influenza occurrence or pandemic, this EEI assumes that conditions dictate that the disease occurrence has been declared by the World Health Organization (WHO) as a Pandemic Phase 5 or 6. (See basic EEI outbreak/pandemic reference above for WHO pandemic phase definitions.) Or that the occurrence is the beginning of a second pandemic wave where information is known about demographic data trends in morbidity, mortality, viral etiology, and antiviral resistance. In this case it is essential to track and understand differences that may have evolved in the virus in between waves.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) use a Pandemic Severity Index (PSI), based on the case fatality ratio, as the critical driver for categorizing the severity of a pandemic. An explanation of the CDC PSI is also included in the reference EEI.

In general, school closures are not recommended until the PSI Index is declared by CDC as being at PSI 2 or 3. But other factors such as a novel virus with a high morbidity (even with a low mortality), and school-aged children and young adults within the vulnerable population for virus susceptibility, may drive a decision for school closure and or other infection control interventions at PSI 1. This EEI assumes that school closures will not be mandated across the state but will occur based on decisions of local school districts.

It is important, therefore, to develop EEI that will provide decision-making data and information at the start of a Phase 5 or 6 Pandemic or second wave that occurs or continues into the school-year calendar.

The EEI listed below will be needed by the ESF 8 Situation Unit to determine current situation and forecast response strategies during a pandemic phase

based on WHO Pandemic Phases and CDC PSI and SEOC Activation Levels. Actions to be taken by Department of Health are found in the Pandemic Influenza Annex to the Emergency Operations Plan. Actions to be taken by the State Emergency Response Team (SERT) are found in the Pandemic Influenza Annex to the Florida Emergency Management Plan (CEMP). Actual EEI that are needed will depend on the evolution of the disease event.

People

People include vulnerable populations, the general population, and responders. Vulnerable populations may be more susceptible to communicable diseases such as influenza because of reduced or compromised immunity, lack of history of previous exposure to similar virus types, have associated complications such as pneumonia, or may have a longer recovery period.

For the development of this EEI, the vulnerable population of greatest concern would be school age children Kindergarten through 12 grade (K-12) and young adults attending community college or universities.

Other vulnerable populations are considered in the reference EEI.

Systems

For the purpose of this EEI systems include K-12 schools, colleges, and universities. Systems include distribution of anti-viral medications and vaccine. Systems also include distribution of infection control educational materials, public health messages, and rumor intelligence and control.

Service Providers

Service providers are the Florida Department of Education, school district boards and college and university boards of trustees, teaching staff; and school, college, and university administration and support staff; those who provide on campus health and medical care and support services to include school nurses. During a pandemic with a PSI of 3 - 5, large numbers of absent staff may reduce the availability of education services and health and medical services.

Essential Elements of Information

**WHO PANDEMIC Phase 5 or 6 or Second Wave
(SEOC Activation Level 3 or 2)**

Initiation – Enhanced Surveillance US and FL

People:

- CDC surveillance – US cases and deaths.
- DOH surveillance – FL cases and deaths.
- Syndromic surveillance reports
- Geographic and demographic data trends in morbidity, mortality, virus etiology, and antiviral resistance.
- Differences in trends from first wave (if applicable)

Systems (Assume novel vaccine is not yet available for distribution)

- Calendars for FL school, colleges, and university openings (consider public and private schools and higher education centers that open before the majority)
- Calendars for school openings in AL and GA counties that border FL.
- Availability and locations of school nurses and on campus health care centers.
- Status of FL antiviral stockpile – security and distribution plans.
- Distribution schedule for seasonal vaccine
- Distribution schedule for novel influenza vaccine
- Distribution of infection control educational materials and public health messages.
- Status of rumors – Predominate statewide rumors, internet and social networking rumors, profession specific rumors.

Service Providers

- Census of K-12 and college/university teaching staff
- Census of school district boards and college/university boards of trustees
- Census of school nursing staff and on campus health care centers.

Acceleration -- Rapid Response and Containment of first or second wave

(WHO Phase 6) (SEOC Activation Level 2)

People:

- CDC Surveillance – US probable cases and deaths. Particular attention to neighboring states.
- FL influenza-like-illness (ILI) cases reported by sentinel sites and syndromic surveillance)
- FL geographic ILI case distribution by Zip Code.

- Geographic and demographic data trends in morbidity, mortality, virus etiology, and antiviral resistance – particularly if different in second wave
- Case containment efforts-- antiviral deployments -- how many/where/resupply priorities.
- Reports of spontaneous school closings by district or college/university location. Rationale for closing, student or faculty absenteeism or both.
- Cancellation of school intramural events.
- Impacts of school closings on students – meals and increases of parental absenteeism from their workplace.

Systems (Assume limited quantities of novel virus vaccine are available for distribution)

- Requests for SNS antiviral allocation to FL. How many/when/where?
- Status of FL antiviral stockpile including SNS distribution received and pending.
- Availability and distribution schedule for seasonal vaccine
- Priority for distribution of novel virus vaccine as it becomes available
- Availability and distribution schedule for novel influenza vaccine
- Use of schools/campuses for public distribution of anti-virals and vaccine
- Distribution of infection control educational materials and public health messages.
- Status of rumors – Predominate statewide rumors, internet and social networking rumors, profession specific rumors.

Service Providers

- Census of K-12 and college/university teaching staff
- Census of school district boards and college/university boards of trustees
- Census of school nursing staff and on campus health care centers.

Peak Transmission – Community Containment and Mitigation Intervention

(WHO Phase 6) (SEOC Activation Level 2 or 1)

People:

- CDC Surveillance – US probable cases and deaths. Particular attention to neighboring states.
- FL influenza-like-illness (ILI) cases reported by sentinel sites and syndromic surveillance)
- FL geographic ILI case distribution by Zip Code.
- Geographic and demographic data trends in morbidity, mortality, virus etiology, and antiviral resistance – particularly if different in second wave

- Reports of spontaneous school closings by district or college/university location. Rationale for closing, student or faculty absenteeism or both.
- Cancellation of school intramural events.
- Impacts of school closings on students – meals and increases of parental absenteeism from their workplace.
- Community containment success indications -- social distancing acceptance and facility and event closures.

Systems (Assume greater quantities of novel virus vaccine are available for distribution)

- Status of FL antiviral stockpile including SNS distribution received and pending.
- Distribution status of seasonal vaccine
- Distribution status of novel virus vaccine
- Reports of seasonal and novel vaccine adverse reactions from Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System (VAERS) reports.
- Use of schools/campuses for public distribution of anti-virals and vaccine
- Distribution of infection control educational materials and public health messages.
- Status of rumors – Predominate statewide rumors, internet and social networking rumors, profession specific rumors.
- Reports of local power and other services outages because of high worker absenteeism affecting school operations.

Service Providers

- Census of K-12 and college/university teaching staff
- Census of school district boards and college/university boards of trustees
- Census of school nursing staff and on campus health care centers.

Deceleration – Novel influenza vaccine generally available

(WHO Phase 6) (SEOC Activation Level 1-2)

People

- FL geographic ILI case distribution by Zip Code.
- Geographic and demographic data trends in morbidity, mortality, virus etiology, and antiviral resistance – particularly if different in second wave
- Reports of spontaneous school closings by district or college/university location. Rationale for closing, student or faculty absenteeism or both.
- Cancellation of school intramural events.
- Impacts of school closings on students – meals and increases of parental absenteeism from their workplace.

- Community containment success indications -- social distancing acceptance and facility and event closures.
- Reports of student and faculty influenza-related behavioral health issues

Systems

- Expectations of closed schools and other facilities to re-open.
- Distribution of infection control educational materials and public health messages.
- Status of rumors – Predominate statewide rumors, internet and social networking rumors, profession specific rumors.

Service Providers

- Census of K-12 and college/university teaching staff
- Census of school district boards and college/university boards of trustees
- Census of school nursing staff and on campus health care centers.

Resolution -- Recovery

(WHO Phase 6) (SEOC Activation Level 3)

People

- FL geographic ILI case distribution by Zip Code.
- Geographic and demographic data trends in morbidity, mortality, virus etiology, and antiviral resistance – particularly if different in second wave
- Reports of student and faculty influenza-related behavioral health issues

Systems

- Status of rumors – Predominate statewide rumors, internet and social networking rumors, profession specific rumors.
- Acceptance of vaccine by the student and young adult population vs. availability
- After action report and lessons learned documentation input from all ESFs.

Service Providers

- Census of K-12 and college/university teaching staff
- Census of school district boards and college/university boards of trustees
- Census of school nursing staff and on campus health care centers.