

# Pandemic Influenza Exercise

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## A Focus on Business Continuity Planning

Business Survival During Pandemic Flu

June 15, 2006

# Objectives

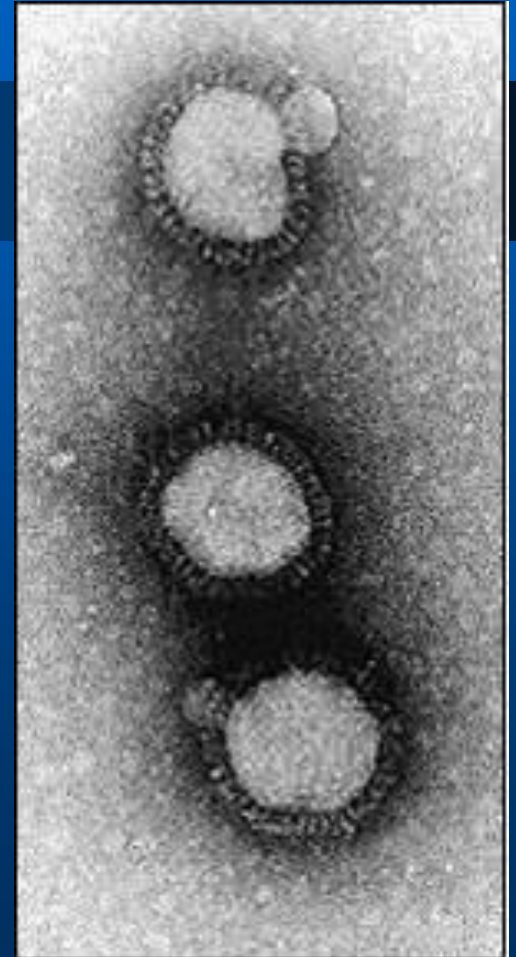
- **Identify the essential factors of a business continuity plan for pandemic response**
- **Identify the prospective role of each organization/employee in the response to a pandemic**

# Framework for Discussion

- **What information do we have to be prepared?**
- **What information are we missing?**
- **How do you plan for the unknown?**

# Scenario 1

Emergence of a novel  
influenza strain



# February 2006



- **Public health community alerted**
  - Multiple cases of severe respiratory disease outside of Beijing, China
  - Novel virus, H8N4, isolated in two children
- **The World Health Organization (WHO) is working to confirm the reports**

# February 2006

- **Mid-February, H8N4 is isolated from two travelers returning to Taiwan from mainland China**
- **By the end of the month, there is a hospital-associated outbreak in Taiwan**
- **Preliminary reports suggest increased morbidity and mortality associated with the strain**

# March 2006

- **WHO team travels to China to investigate**
  - Team confirms H8N4 in China
  - Two large hospital outbreaks are identified in Beijing
  - Additional confirmed cases from across China
- **Travel advisories issued by CDC/WHO**

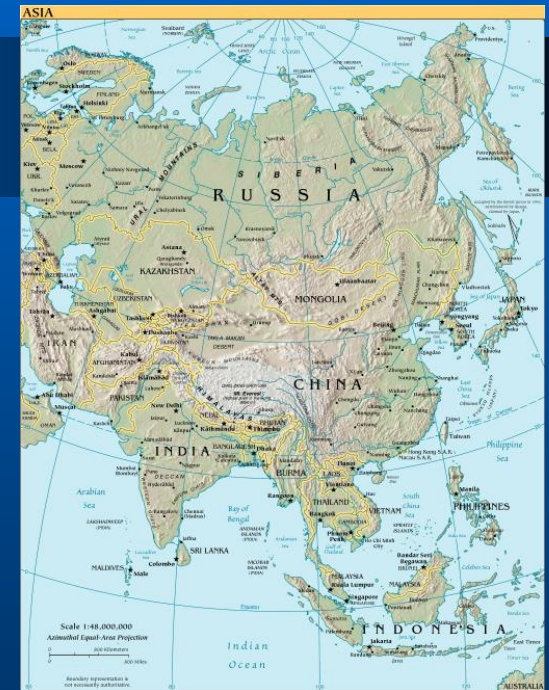
# Scenario 1: General Discussion

- **How would you get your information about pandemic flu?**
- **What are other critical issues at this point in time?**



# Scenario 2

## WHO Declares Onset of Influenza Pandemic



# April 2006

- **WHO confirms outbreaks**
  - Throughout mainland China
  - Localized outbreaks in Taiwan, Thailand, Singapore, Australia
- **Overall case-fatality rate ~ 25%**
- **Severe disease in multiple groups**
  - Children
  - Elderly
  - Immunocompromised

# April 2006

- **There are demands from the public that persons from abroad shouldn't be let into the U.S.**
- **Business groups protest isolationist sentiment; express concern about international travel & trade**

# April 2006

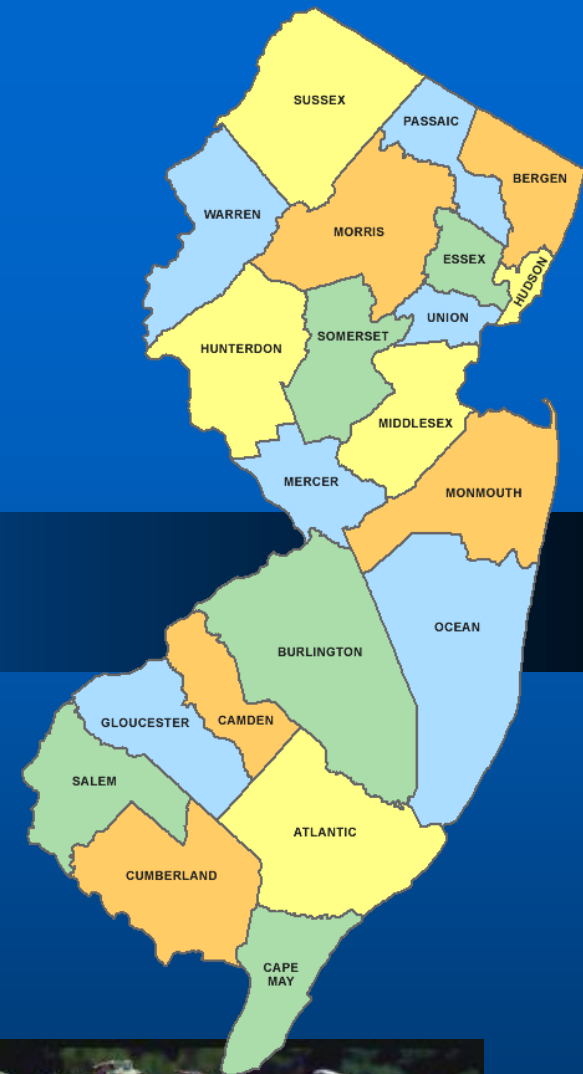
- Ill persons returning from affected areas are isolated upon entry into the U.S. to try to slow the spread of disease
- HHS
  - Intensive efforts to obtain seed virus for vaccine production; Estimated 4-5 months until 1<sup>st</sup> batch
- Individuals across the country express concern that the government isn't doing enough

# General Questions

- **What information are you providing to employees?**
- **What changes have you made regarding travel restrictions with your employees?**
- **What activities have you begun in preparation for the pandemic?**

# Scenario 3

The pandemic arrives  
in New Jersey



# May 2006

- **Sporadic infections in the U.S. are reported in travelers returning from Asia**
- **Early-May**
  - **Outbreak of flu is reported among a group of 60 soldiers returning to Norfolk from Thailand**
  - **The outbreak is later confirmed as H8N4**
  - **Upon arrival, many soldiers depart for leave or reassignment to other states**
  - **Local health department and hospital resources stretched thin in response to the outbreak**

# May 2006

- **Other states report similar localized outbreaks related to travelers returning from Asia**
- **By the end of the month, 38 states have reported confirmed cases**
- **New Jersey Regional breakdown**
  - **Shore: 5 cases**
  - **Northern: 5cases**
  - **Central: 1 case**
  - **Northwest: 1 case**
  - **South: 20 cases confirmed**



# May 2006- New Jersey cases

<b>Age group (years)</b>	<b># of cases</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>&lt;1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>9.4</b>
<b>1 – 9</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6.3</b>
<b>10 – 19</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3.1</b>
<b>20 – 29</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>43.7</b>
<b>30 – 39</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>28.1</b>
<b>40 - 49</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3.1</b>
<b>50+</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6.3</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>32</b>	

# May 2006

- **Concern is rampant in the media about:**
  - **Vaccine availability**
  - **Antiviral availability**
  - **Likely impending shortage of health services (ICU beds, ventilators, etc)**

# Mid-Summer 2006

- **Almost 40% of the workforce is out of work with H8N4.**

# General Questions

## What now?

- Commerce is affected
- Transportation is affected
- Infrastructure is affected
- Healthcare System is affected

# Discussion