Communicable Diseases & Pandemic Preparedness Ad Hoc Task Force – Useful Links

GENERAL RESOURCES

AHLA – Emergency, Preparedness, Response, and Recovery Checklist
- Document intended to provide important legal and operational issues that arise in the context of a health emergency.
- Intended for health care professionals and their organizations to create effective preventative measures and policies.

AHLA – Pan-Flue Preparedness: Key Legal Issues
- Publication that examines key legal issues that may arise during a pandemic flu.
- Addresses a broad range of issues that are faced by pre-hospital providers, treating physicians, acute care facilities, and other community health care professionals.

ASPR TRACIE - CMS Emergency Preparedness Rule: Resources at Your Fingertips
- A summary of the newly issued CMS rules regarding implementation of an emergency preparedness plan for Medicaid participated providers and suppliers.
- It also provides additional links to other valuable resources for providers.

CDC – Preparedness Information: Be Ready, Be Healthy
- Discusses families’ and citizens’ roles in preparing for a pandemic.
- In the event of an outbreak, this page discusses the impact preparedness and first responders can have on controlling and limiting the outbreak.
- Encourages communication regarding preparedness among neighbors and friends.

CDC – Resources for Emergency Health Professionals
- Collection of links for use specifically by potential emergency health professionals.
- Contains both preventative information and procedures in the event of an outbreak.
- Important information about the Health Alert Network (HAN).

CDC – Emergency Preparedness and Training Index
- Collection of training and education materials organized by specific categories.
  - Types of emergencies
  - Specific audiences, including public health professionals and clinicians/laboratory workers.

- FAQs from a 2009 teleconference.

CDC - Final Rule for Control of Communicable Diseases: Interstate and Foreign
- A summary of the final rule regarding communicable diseases.
- The webpage provides an overview of the response to public comments and a summary of the final rule, along with instructions on where to find the full text of the rule.
Michigan Department of Health and Human Services – Guardian of Public Health
- This is a link to subscribe to a newsletter provided by MDHHS
- The Guardian is issued from the Bureau of EMS, Trauma, and Preparedness (BETP) within the MDHHS that aims to provide its readers with relevant content on topics that affect the public health of citizens and communities in Michigan.

US DHHS – Public Health Emergency
- Contains a wealth of information on preparing for and responding to a public health emergency.
- Mostly internal links to other DHHS pages.
- Organized specific sets of pages for:
  o Public health and medical services support
  o Legal authorities, policies, guidance, and committees
  o Federal, state, and local planning
  o Medical countermeasures
  o International preparedness and response
  o Responders, clinicians, and practitioners
  o Public health emergency response
- Also contains a service that will direct you to each specific state’s relevant DHHS links

US DHHS – A Decision Makers Guide: Medical Planning and Response for a Nuclear Detonation (Second Edition)
- An expansive guide to assist administrations, emergency managers, and public officials in the preparation of a plan of response to the detonation of a nuclear device.
- Addresses issues such as:
  o Communications to the public
  o Coordination of local, state, and federal resources
  o Crisis standards of care for medical personnel
  o Nuclear fallout protection
  o Existing federal response structure

ARTICLES AND REPORTS

ACLU - "Pandemic Preparedness | The Need for a Public Health-Not a Law Enforcement / National Security-Approach"
- 2008 report from the ACLU. With references from history and arguments against a law enforcement approach to addressing pandemic diseases (in this case, avian influenza or H5N1.)
American Journal of Bioethics – “Ethics, Pandemics, and the Duty to Treat”
- Academic journal article that critically analyzes the justifications offered in defense of the proposition that healthcare workers have a moral/ethical duty to treat patients, even when doing so would expose the workers to significant risks of harm or death.
- The article is based upon the recognition of moral general positive duties applied to a healthcare context.
- There are 5 supposed grounds for a duty to treat:
  - Consent
  - Implied Consent
  - Special Training
  - Reciprocity
  - Oaths & Codes

- This journal article focuses on the threat of pandemic influenza and hypothesizes likely problems facing healthcare workers by looking at in-depth statistics.
- Contains discussions of the health care workers’ duties to various parties in the scope of the SARS epidemic and tries to predict response/care rates of health care workers.
- The authors apply the “Four Principles” of medical ethics developed in the 1970s to the SARS epidemic and use lessons learned from that application to try and forecast issues with a pandemic influenza outbreak in the US.

Laura A. Stokowski, RN, MS – “Ethical Dilemmas for Healthcare Professionals: Can We Avoid Influenza?”
- Medscape article that discusses healthcare workers’ dilemma in balancing their duty to provide care for patients with an interest in their own safety, health and well-being.
- The article uses research statistics, hospital employee surveys, and expert opinions to demonstrate the risk that healthcare workers undertake when treating highly contagious patients and their awareness of that risk.
- The author also discusses how employers’ policies or consequences for refusal to treat can imply an ethical duty, but could also run afoul of personal liberties.
- The article eventually advocates for various protective practices in order to promote ethical conduct.
World Health Organization - Project on Addressing Ethical Issues in Pandemic Influenza Planning

- A paper with the purpose of examining the ethical aspects of health care workers’ duty to provide care during an influenza pandemic, as well as society’s obligations to health care workers.
- Five sections:
  1. Ethical aspects of duty to treat during a pandemic
  2. Professional codes of ethics and pandemics
  3. Obligations of society to health care workers
  4. Empirical studies of pandemic planning
  5. Conclusion and draft recommendations
- Closes with recommendations for additional planning and preparedness in the form of codes of ethics, government coordination, and professional associations in order to increase overall preparedness and uniformity.

Washington Post – “World leaders rehearse for a pandemic that will come ‘sooner than we expect’”

- Describes a pandemic simulation that was held during the annual meeting of the World Bank in October 2017.
- Simulation was in response to the “horribly inefficient” early response to the 2014 Ebola outbreak in West Africa.
- Included participants from the WHO, CDC, and International Air Transport Association.
- Used simulated social media posts and hypothetical facts to pose scenarios to various government officials and discuss the best and most efficient responses.

EBOLA VIRUS

OSHA - Cleaning and Decontamination of Ebola on Surfaces

- Contains OSHA recommended procedures for cleaning and disinfecting surfaces that have been exposed to the Ebola virus.
- Also recommends procedures for waste disposal.

OSHA – PPE Selection Matrix for Occupational Exposure to Ebola Virus

- Comprehensive chart/matrix designed to recommend certain types of PPE that correspond to different types of exposure to Ebola.

Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) – Responding to the Ebola Outbreak

- Explains that University of Nebraska Medical Center and Emory University Hospital are on the “front lines” of treating Ebola patients.
- List of links from other AMCs and from the CDC regarding Ebola preparedness and treatment. Also links from various other medical schools and teaching hospitals.
OSHA – Safety and Health Topics – Ebola
- OSHA publication that contains an introduction to the Ebola virus and useful information relating to the workplace.
- Specific pages include:
  - Background, including the origins of Ebola virus and EHF
  - Hazard recognition
  - Medical information
  - Standards for protecting workers from Ebola virus
  - Control and prevention of EHF
- Contains links to common CDC web pages.

CDC – Ebola (Ebola Virus Disease)
- Information and links specific to the Ebola outbreak.
- Contains a lot of information specifically about the Ebola virus, its cause, symptoms, etc., with separate pages entitled:
  - Signs and symptoms
  - Transmission
  - Risk of exposure
  - Outbreaks
  - For healthcare workers
  - Prevention
  - Diagnosis
  - Treatment
- Also a collection of other CDC links intended for clinics that focuses on preparedness and planning, along with interim CDC regulations.

Kent County Health Department – Ebola Virus Emergency Legal Preparedness Local PowerPoint File
- An overview of facts about the Ebola virus and relevant legal authorities regarding outbreak preparedness procedures.
- The PowerPoint presentation starts with basic facts such as symptoms, treatment, and risk factors for health care workers / practitioners.
- The next section covers federal, state, and local authorities for isolation and quarantine laws.
- It finishes with court proceedings and orders that can result from isolation and quarantine, as well as sample forms, resources, and contact information.

PANDEMIC FLU

OSHA – Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for an Influenza Pandemic
- Extensive publication recommending procedures for preparing for and handling an Influenza pandemic in a workplace.
- Includes steps designed to prevent the spread of Influenza, as well as procedures to implement once a pandemic is already underway.
- Identifies different types of workplaces and their various risks for exposure to an Influenza pandemic.
OSHA – Pandemic Influenza Preparedness and Response Guidance for Healthcare Workers and Healthcare Employers

- Expansive document that identifies the clinical presentation of an Influenza pandemic, transmission, strategies for infection control, procedures for care and preparedness, etc.
- Covers all aspects of healthcare workers’ preparedness and risks associated with treating Influenza in the context of a pandemic.

OSHA – Pandemic Influenza

- Division of OSHA website dedicated to pandemic flu.
- Looks at the issues from the perspective of employers, employees, and the workplace setting, not necessarily just in health care settings.
- Specific collection of OSHA publications on pandemic preparedness, protection, and instructions for health care workers.

CDC – Resources for Pandemic Flu

- Collection of other CDC resources regarding specific procedures for pandemic flu outbreaks.
- Includes risk assessment and preparedness tools.

CDC – Pandemic Flu Preparedness Tools for Professionals

- Collection of resources to help hospital administrators and other state/local health officers prepare for influenza pandemic.
- Includes software that provides estimates of outbreak rate based on population and other regional factors.

CDC – Community Mitigation Guidelines to Prevent Pandemic Influenza – United States, 2017

- Replaces to 2007 interim guidelines issued by the CDC.
- Provides guidance to state and local health departments plan for a pandemic influenza outbreak by advocating the use of nonpharmaceutical interventions (NPIs).
- The goal is to provide a framework to assist in the development of guidelines for slowing the spread of influenza to prevent a pandemic level outbreak.

Flu.gov

- Government website about all types of influenza.
- Most of the links actually redirect to CDC websites.
- Great resources about planning and preparedness that are original to the website.
- Pandemic awareness section is specifically relevant to our task force website.

ZIKA VIRUS

American Medical Association (AMA) – Zika Virus Resource Center

- Collection of links and other resources related to educating people about the Zika virus and its effects.
- Identifies specific resources for the public, physicians, and clinics.
OSHA – Interim Guidance for Protecting Workers from Occupational Exposure to Zika Virus

- Joint report from OSHA and NIOSH
- Contains an overview of the Zika Virus along with common risks associated with a variety of occupations, including:
  - Outdoor workers
  - Health care and laboratory workers
  - Mosquito control workers
- Advice on identifying early symptoms of Zika Virus and the best courses of treatment.

CDC – Zika Virus

- A central hub for a variety of information related to Zika Virus in the US and abroad.
- It is routinely updated to provide current information from the CDC and other sources.