



PANDEMIC INFLUENZA PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE PLAN

INTRODUCTION

Background

Pandemic: A Worldwide Outbreak of Influenza



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when an influenza pandemic occurs. At the onset of an influenza pandemic, public health officials will determine the severity of the pandemic and recommend actions to protect the community. People who become severely ill may need to be cared for in a hospital. However, most people with influenza will be safely cared for at home.

Community mitigation recommendations will be based on the severity of the pandemic and may include the following:

- Asking ill people to voluntarily remain at home and not go to work, school or out in the community for about 7-10 days or until they are well and can no longer spread the infection to others (ill individuals may be treated with influenza antiviral medications, as deemed appropriate by health care providers or public health officials, if these medications are effective and available).
- Asking members of households with a person who is ill to voluntarily remain at home for about 7 days (household members may also be provided with antiviral medications, as deemed appropriate by health care providers or public health officials, if these medications are effective and available).
- At the direction of local public health authorities and/or members of the Campus Emergency Planning Team (CEPT), dismissing students from school and school-based activities for up to 12 weeks, coupled with protecting students, faculty and staff through social distancing in the community to include reductions of out-of-school social contacts and community mixing.
- Recommending social distancing of all campus community members, which may include cancellation of large public gatherings; changing workplace environments and schedules to decrease social density and preserve a healthy workplace to the greatest extent possible without disrupting essential services; and ensuring work-leave policies to align incentives and facilitate adherence with the measures outlined above.
- All such community-based strategies should be used in combination with individual infection control measures, such as hand washing and cough etiquette.



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Purpose

Lewis University has developed this institutional guide to assist in the reduction of a pandemic virus spread within the university community. The plan also serves to provide a framework for the University to work together with public health authorities to reduce the influenza morbidity, mortality, and social disruption which would result from a pandemic influenza outbreak. Lewis University will follow recommendations and directives from governmental authorities such as the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), the Will County Health Department (WCHD), and/or the Will County Emergency Management Agency (WCEMA).

Scope and Applicability

Our plan is designed to outline the duties of various departments that would have special responsibilities to supplement the Campus Emergency Operations Plan (CEOP) in the event of a pandemic influenza outbreak on campus. Additionally, the plan focuses on pre-event planning activities. A coordinated response from all involved departments is essential.

Authorities

The Lewis University Influenza Preparedness and Response Plan is written based on guidance from the CDC, IDPH, and the WCHD.

The overall authority for direction and control, within the university, of the response to a pandemic illness outbreak rests with the Campus Emergency Planning Team (CEPT).

This plan is consistent with the overall CEOP and follows the same chain of command. Before or during a pandemic illness outbreak, the Campus Emergency Planning Team (CEPT) can initiate any portion of the CEOP, at any time and will be in overall command of plan operations. The level of plan activation will be determined by CEPT officials with the guidance and direction of local public health authorities.



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Plan Goals and Objectives

- Ensure optimal coordination, decision-making, and communication between internal departments as well as with local health authorities.
- Keep our community and families educated and informed.
- Implement measures to decrease the spread of disease among the Lewis University community, thus protecting the health and safety of students, employees and their families.
- Maintain continuity of essential operations during any period when students are sent home.
- Maintain financial viability despite possible campus evacuation of students.
- Preserve human life

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

Situation



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