

# Preparing for the Pandemic Influenza in Miami-Dade County

Lillian Rivera, RN, MSN  
Administrator, Miami-Dade County Health Department  
January 21, 2006



# Public Health Goals in a Pandemic: Protecting the Public's Health



- Limit death and illness
- Preserve continuity of essential government and business functions
- Minimize social disruption
- Minimize economic losses

# Public Health's Role in a Pandemic



- Disease Tracking and Control
- Environmental Health response
- Health System Coordination
- Mass fatality response
- Communications
- Laboratory services

# Pandemic Impact: Health Care System



- Extreme staffing shortages
- Shortage of beds, facility space
- Shortage of key supplies (ventilators, drugs)
- Hospital morgues, Medical Examiner and mortuary services overwhelmed
- Extreme demands on social and counseling services
- Demand will outpace supply for months

# Pandemic Impact: Infrastructure



- Significant disruption of transportation, commerce, utilities, public safety and communications
- Limited to no assistance from State and Federal governments due to nation-wide impact

# Pandemic Impact: Businesses



- High absenteeism
- Challenges getting to/from worksite
- Psychological impacts on workforce will be extreme
- Social distancing efforts may dramatically change hours of operation or close businesses temporarily
- Economic losses – small businesses at greatest risk

# Pandemic Preparedness Means



- Decision-making and coordination, including communication between responders
- Surveillance: Recognition & reporting of cases, monitoring impact on community
- Vaccine and antiviral drug management

# Pandemic Preparedness Means



- Health care delivery system preparedness
- Maintenance of essential community services:  
Continuity of Government, Business Continuity
- Implementation of social distancing measures
- Public education and communication

# Essential Partnerships for Preparedness



- Emergency Operations Center
- Hospitals and health care providers
- First responders / Infrastructure Agencies
- Elected officials and government partners
- Businesses
- Schools, community based organizations
- Port / Airport

# Planning Underway



- Engaging business community
- Educating partners
- Forming a hospital workgroup (Jackson Health Systems)
- Enhancing capacity to communicate information to the public
- Developing capacity to rapidly vaccinate large populations
- Identifying social distancing measures

# Our Commitment to You



- Planning Guidance
- Risk Communication Plan is being developed
- Up-To-Date Information via Website:  
[www.dadehealth.org](http://www.dadehealth.org)
- Ongoing support through partnerships

# What We Need From You



- Engage in business continuity planning
- Share resources and capabilities
- Share information about absenteeism to support tracking of disease
- Cooperate with social distancing measures
- Partner with us

# How Can You Reach Us?



Please call Olga Connor's office at:

**(786) 336-1276**

or

**Olga\_Connor@doh.state.fl.us**