


COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
EXECUTIVE ORDER

Subject:		Governor's Pandemic Advisory Council		Number:		2006-07	
Date:		July 27, 2006		By Direction of:		 Edward G. Rendell, Governor	

- WHEREAS, influenza pandemics have occurred three times in the last century, and history and science suggest that the country and the world could face one or more pandemics in this century;
- WHEREAS, the Spanish Flu of 1918 was the most widely-reaching, lethal pandemic the world has ever known, and within 10 months, one in four Americans had contracted the disease and more than 675,000 Americans died, and globally, an estimated 20 to 40 million people died;
- WHEREAS, influenza outbreaks can occur in many different locations simultaneously, causing severe illness, death, and disruption throughout the country and the world;
- WHEREAS, highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza in birds has demonstrated an ability to spread across national boundaries through both human and wild bird activity, and has the potential to have a detrimental impact on the Commonwealth's valuable poultry industry, as well as other industries, if and when it arrives here;
- WHEREAS, preparing for an influenza pandemic requires coordinated action at all levels of federal, state, and local governments, and all sectors of society, including businesses, schools, faith-based and community organizations, families and individuals;
- WHEREAS, Pennsylvania is committed to being a leader in pandemic preparation by monitoring international and domestic outbreaks, by providing funding and technical assistance to foster state and local preparedness, and by stockpiling and distributing vaccines and antivirals;
- WHEREAS, states and local communities are responsible for responding to an outbreak within their jurisdictions and having comprehensive pandemic preparedness plans and measures in place to protect their citizens;
- WHEREAS, response planning for pandemic influenza should be integrated into the Commonwealth's and its state agencies' all-hazards response plan and be consistent with the National Response Plan, the National Incident Management System, and the Incident Command System; and

WHEREAS, all-hazard preparedness will help communities address any type of medical emergency and will have lasting benefits for the health of our Nation.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Edward G. Rendell, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and other laws of the Commonwealth, do hereby create the **Governor's Pandemic Advisory Council** (hereafter referred to as "Council") as the Commonwealth's entity to provide guidance to the Commonwealth's action and activities for pandemic planning and preparedness.

1. Functions. The functions of the Council shall be to:

a. make recommendations to the Governor on policies, procedures, regulations, and legislation that would aid in increasing pandemic preparedness.

b. assist in raising preparedness levels by participating in local planning, outreach, exercises, and regional summits.

c. create a communications and outreach subcommittee to serve as a resource to the Governor to:

(1) review Pandemic Preparedness education and outreach efforts and recommend within 180 days of the first meeting of the Council additional methods to enable citizens to better understand the risks and how they should be prepared.

(2) serve as a resource to all Pennsylvanians to ensure that Pennsylvanians are cognizant of the issues surrounding pandemic planning and preparedness and are prepared to respond.

d. create a volunteer recruitment and coordination subcommittee to serve as a resource to Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA), the Department of Agriculture, and the Department of Health, and to develop a volunteer coordination and recruitment strategy to ensure resources are available locally to meet the needs of the citizens.

e. prepare an annual report to the Governor on the status of pandemic preparedness.

2. Composition and Appointments. The Council shall be composed of the following individuals:

a. Governor's Chief of Staff, who shall serve as Chair of the Council;

b. Secretary of Agriculture;

c. Secretary of Health;

d. Director of the Bureau of Community Health Systems, Department of Health;

e. Secretary of Administration;

f. Secretary of Policy and Planning;

g. Commissioner of the Pennsylvania State Police;

h. Director of PEMA;

i. Director of Homeland Security;

j. Adjutant General; and

k. at least 25 individuals including, but not limited to, representatives of the following entities, as appointed by the Governor:

(1) four representatives of local government;

(2) three representatives of the Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Animal Health and Diagnostic Services;

(3) two representatives of county or local government emergency preparedness communities;

(4) two representatives of universities/colleges;

(5) one representative of secondary education;

(6) three representatives of hospitals;

(7) three representatives of business/industry, to include one representative from a financial institution;

(8) three representatives of human service agencies;

(9) two representatives of faith-based organizations;

(10) one representative of a media/communication entity; and

(11) one representative of a utility company.

3. Compensation and Expenses. The members of the Council shall not receive a salary or per diem allowance for serving as members of the Council but shall be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties in accordance with Commonwealth policy. The Department of Health will provide staff resources and funding support to the Council.

4. Terms of Council Members.

a. The terms of the members of the Council shall be 3 years, but an individual shall not be term limited.

b. Council members, other than those serving by virtue of their office, shall be appointed by, and serve at the pleasure of, the Governor.

5. Relationship with Other Agencies. All agencies under the jurisdiction of the Governor shall cooperate with and provide any necessary assistance to the Council in performing its functions.

6. Procedure. The Council is authorized to establish subcommittees, rules, and procedures for the effective implementation of its functions consistent with this order.

7. Effective Date. This *Executive Order* shall take effect immediately.

8. Termination Date. This *Executive Order* shall remain in effect unless revised or rescinded by the Governor.