



El Paso City-County Health and Environmental District

Jorge C. Magaña, M.D., F.A.A.P., Director

August 30, 2006

RE: [Household] Preparation for Pandemic Flu

Dear Community Member:

The El Paso City-County Health and Environmental District is currently preparing the community for the possible impact of an influenza pandemic. At this time, it appears that the Bird Flu virus (H5N1), should it mutate and become transmissible between humans, may result in an influenza pandemic for which there will be no immediate human resistance. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) predicts that 25% to 30% of the United States population could be infected by a flu pandemic.

As part of our preparation efforts, we are asking [individuals and families] to plan for the impact of a pandemic on your organization and its mission. We are also asking that you plan to ensure the continuity of operations within your organization. Therefore, your participation is essential.

We hope you will find the information in this CD helpful to you in your preparation efforts. Please print and distribute any of the materials on this CD, share it with others, and take action. We also encourage you to call 211 for more information and to visit our website for other useful information at www.elpasocitycountyhealth.com. In addition, my staff and I are always available to answer your questions or to provide presentations. Contact our Health Education and Promotion Department at 771-5888 or our Community Health Preparedness Department at 832-3400.

In El Paso, we cannot prevent the pandemic flu, but we can be prepared to act, we can respond quickly and effectively, and we can limit the number of serious illnesses and deaths. You can make a difference to help keep El Paso safe and healthy.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jorge C. Magaña MD FAAP'.

Jorge C. Magaña, MD, FAAP
Director