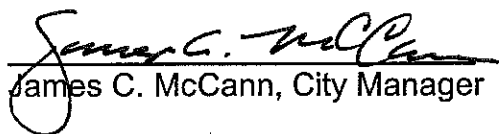


City of Calistoga

Staff Report

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members
FROM: Joe Russo, Firefighter
VIA: Steve Campbell, Fire Chief
DATE: May 5, 2009
SUBJECT: Swine Influenza Virus Update

APPROVAL FOR FORWARDING:


James C. McCann, City Manager

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ISSUE: Presentation by Dr. Karen Smith, Napa County Public Health Officer, regarding an update on the status of the swine influenza virus.

RECOMMENDATION: Receive update.

DISCUSSION: Dr. Karen Smith, Public Health Officer with Napa County Health and Human Services Agency along with other County health officials are taking steps to identify and track the previously unknown strain of swine flu should it spread to Napa County. Dr Smith has been providing daily updates to all agencies, regarding the status of the swine flu outbreak. She will provide an update of this swine flu at the May 5th Council meeting and provide pandemic flu educational material for the community. The County Health and Human Services Department plays an active role in preparing the public for health emergencies including putting in place programs to respond to threats endangering the health of the public.

Health professionals have a better understanding of how to deal with pandemics than we did in years past. In recent history, government and health officials have been preparing for a pandemic influenza (flu) to occur. During the 20th century there were 3 major flu pandemics that occurred with varying degrees of mortality rates worldwide. The Hong Kong Flu (H3N2) in 1968, in 1957 the Asian Flu (H2N2) and the worst of the flu pandemics to occur during that century was the Spanish Flu (H1N1) in 1918. The newest strain of H1N1 virus (referred to as Swine Flu) has been linked to illness in 9 countries with an estimated 148 confirmed cases. It has killed 7 people in Mexico, where the illness is believed to have begun. Additionally, there has been 1 reported death within the United States, and no other related deaths in other parts of the world. Influenza pandemic begins when a new strain of influenza jumps the species barrier (animal to human). Newer strains of influenza originating

29 from animals, which spread to humans, can be extremely dangerous because
30 humans. On April 27, 2009 Governor Schwarzenegger declared a "State of
31 Emergency" for California over the outbreak of swine flu.

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33 The World Health Organization (WHO) is concerned about the potential for a global
34 flu pandemic. On Tuesday April 29th 2009, the WHO raised its alert level of 1-6 to a
35 5. A level 5 is defined by WHO as:

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37 *"Human-to-human spread of the virus into at least two countries in one*
38 *WHO region. While most countries will not be affected at this stage, the*
39 *declaration of Phase 5 is a strong signal that a pandemic is imminent*
40 *and that the time to finalize the organization, communication, and*
41 *implementation of the planned mitigation measures is short".*

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43 Over the past few years the County has been working with local cities to improve
44 disaster preparedness in order to deal with emergencies including wide-spread flu
45 pandemics. The City of Calistoga has regularly trained to respond to local and
46 regional emergencies (floods, earthquakes, fires, etc.). Response to a pandemic has
47 also been a part of the training exercises we participate in with our local, regional and
48 state colleague. The City is prepared to set up our Point of Distribution site at the
49 Napa County Fairgrounds to distribute anti-viral medications or vaccines per our City
50 Continuity of Operations Plan during an infectious outbreak such as an influenza
51 pandemic. This plan calls for guidance to ensure execution of essential functions
52 during an influenza pandemic. This action, if deemed necessary by the Napa County
53 Public Health Division, will coordinate delivery of supplies to Calistoga for distribution.

54 The current strain of swine flu presents with various symptoms similar to regular
55 human seasonal influenza. The symptoms include fever, lethargy, lack of appetite
56 and coughing. Some people with swine flu also have reported runny nose, sore
57 throat, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. The Center for Disease Control recommends
58 frequent hand washing with soap and water especially after coughing or sneezing.
59 Avoid close contact with sick people, and avoid touching your mouth, nose or eyes.

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61 **DISCUSSION:**

- 62 1. Public Information packets
63 2. Background information