

REFERENCES

Columbia County
Emergency Management Agency
www.columbiacountyema.org
570-398-5720

Columbia County
Red Cross
www.redcross.org
570-784-1395 (Bloomsburg)
570-752-7221 (Berwick)

Columbia County
West Nile Virus Coordinator
570-389-9146

Pennsylvania
Emergency Management Agency:
www.pema.state.pa.us

Pennsylvania
Pandemic Flu Web Site
www.pandemicflu.state.pa.us

Pennsylvania
Department of Health
www.health.state.pa.us
1-877-PA HEALTH (1-877-724-3258)

Pennsylvania
West Nile Virus Web Site
www.westnile.state.pa.us
www.pested.psu.edu/issues/wnv/

U.S. Health & Human Services
Pandemic Flu Web Site
www.pandemicflu.gov

Center for Disease Control
www.cdc.gov
CDC hotline at 1-800-CDC-INFO

U.S. Humane Society
www.hsus.org

PANDEMIC OR BIRD FLU

FACTS and TIPS



Compliments of:

Columbia County

Emergency Management
570-389-5720

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PANDEMIC — FACTS and TIPS

A pandemic is a sudden outbreak that becomes widespread and affects a region, a continent, or the world. There have been three flu-related pandemics in the last century. From 1918-1919, the Spanish Flu claimed an estimated 20-40 million lives and affected healthy young adults (20-50 years old). From 1957-1958, the Asian Flu claimed an estimated 1 million lives and affected the very young and very old. From 1968-1969, the Hong Kong Flu claimed an estimated 1-4 million lives and affected the very old and those with underlying medical conditions.

The possibility of a worldwide pandemic has generated an array of rumors and fears, especially regarding the Avian Flu (also known as Bird Flu). Will there ever be another pandemic? If so, when and where? Will it be bird flu or something else? How many people will be affected? These and other questions are hard to answer with certainty until something does indeed happen. Whether a pandemic happens in the next 1, 10 or 100 years, it is important that everyone take actions to be prepared.

The PA Department of Health will coordinate pandemic influenza surveillance and diagnosis. The Columbia County Emergency Management Agency is working with local and state agencies for pandemic emergency plan development, including the distribution of medical assets from the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS)

Points of Distribution (PODs) are being identified in Columbia County for the mass distribution of medications or injections to the public. These sites will meet the established criteria for the safe and coordinated processing of thousands of citizens. Separate arrangements will be made to accommodate residents of Nursing and Assisted Living Facilities, Bloomsburg University, and the Columbia County Prison.

Approximately 200 volunteers (not including police, fire & ambulance personnel) are needed to staff each POD site per day. Training will be provided to volunteers. This would be an excellent project for faith-based, community, civic or professional organizations.

If a pandemic were to occur, it will be imperative for county residents to monitor local radio or TV stations for instructions. For assistance with family emergency planning or to keep current with local emergency management news, visit the Columbia County Emergency Management website at www.columbiacountyema.org.

This pamphlet is designed to provide only basic information. For additional information, please refer to the reference section of this pamphlet.