



Wyoming Department of Education

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MEMORANDUM NO. 2008 - 078

TO: School District Superintendents

FROM: Jim McBride, Ed.D. 

DATE: May 16, 2008

SUBJECT: Statewide Pandemic Influenza Response Exercise (S.P.I.R.E.)

IMPORTANT – PLEASE READ

The Wyoming Department of Health is planning a statewide pandemic flu functional exercise on June 24, 25 and 26, 2008. This event will allow state and local emergency response plans for pandemic flu to be exercised. Only a few school districts have indicated their interest in participating in the exercise. We recognize that the timing isn't great, however, if it is at all possible, I urge you to participate in the exercise so you can work with your local community/county emergency responders to see how well your school plans work in the community setting.

You can participate in your own community and would not need to take two entire days as you can be in contact with your local exercise partners by phone.

For more information on the exercise, visit: www.health.wyo.gov/sho/hazards/exercise.html.

Please contact your county Public Health Response Coordinator or call the Wyoming Department of Health Exercise Coordinator Jim Smith at (307) 777-6777 for more information. The attachments to this letter will also provide more information on the exercise. If you have not signed up to participate, please consider responding to this invitation. The signup deadline of May 1 has been extended to allow for late registration.

Thank you for considering taking part in this exercise to ensure that all school-communities are prepared for a possible pandemic flu outbreak in Wyoming.

JM:tl

Attachments

Wyoming S.P.I.R.E

Statewide Pandemic Influenza Response Exercise



Wyoming
Department
of Health

Commit to your health.

June 24-26, 2008

This will be a statewide functional exercise which will exercise and help validate state and local emergency response plans, especially ESF-8 (Health & Medical) and related pandemic influenza plans.

*For more information and projected exercise agenda visit:
<http://www.health.wyo.gov/sho/hazards/exercise.html>*

S.P.I.R.E. will exercise the following major objectives:

- NIMS/ICS/HICS,
- Disease detection and reporting,
- Mass prophylaxis
- Medical surge capacity
- Non-pharmaceutical interventions
- Communications to include WARN & WebEOC
- Continuity of Operations (COOP).

The scenario will exercise all seven objectives, with at least three exercised at the functional level. The exercise will last a total of 12-18 hours over a two day time period.



Wyoming S.P.I.R.E. Update

Wyoming S.P.I.R.E. Planning Conference

We are excited to announce that things are moving forward with the exercise. This past week the Exercise Design Team met and had a very productive Planning Conference. Wyoming S.P.I.R.E. is quickly building up to be the culmination of over three years of planning, training, and conducting exercises at state, local and tribal levels. This exercise will bring years of hard work together in an effort to demonstrate our preparedness capabilities and validate our plans.

The Exercise Design Team would like to encourage those participants who registered to participate for only one day, please consider playing on both June 24th and 25th (Tues & Weds). Opportunities like those that will occur during S.P.I.R.E to exercise plans and capabilities do not come along everyday. Participation on those days will greatly benefit planning, training and preparedness for future events in all disciplines and at all levels.

As participants prepare for S.P.I.R.E., we want to assure everyone that it will be conducted in a non-threatening type of environment. This is an exercise - not a test.

Regional Exercise Overviews

During May a series of regional overviews will be conducted for Emergency Managers, Public Health Nurse Managers, Public Health Response Coordinators, Hospitals and EMS. For your convenience this will be done on a conference call. These overviews will provide valuable insight into how the exercise is being designed and how the exercise will progress through the first wave of a pandemic. Please watch for updates on when the call will be scheduled for your region.

Exercise Design Team

We would also like to acknowledge those who are serving on the Exercise Design Team and thank them for their time, dedication and hard work in helping bring this all together.

Angie Van Houten	WDH Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program Mgr. (PHEPP)
Merit Thomas	WDH Hospital Preparedness Program Coordinator
Clay Van Houten	WDH Emerging Disease Section Chief
Roger Burr	WDH PHEPP Education/Planning Supervisor & EOCC Manager
Sheryl Roub	WDH PHEPP Program Project Manager & Communications
Paul Card	WDH PHEPP HAN Coordinator
James Smith	WDH PHEPP Exercise Coordinator
Matt Edwards	WDH PHEPP Exercise Specialist
Katy Bryan	WDH Pandemic Influenza Coordinator
Bob Dean	WDH Emergency Medical Services
Bob Mason	Office of Homeland Security
Terry Dimon	Cheyenne Regional Medical Center, Trauma Director
Roger Holborn	Cheyenne Regional Medical Center, Registered Nurse
Tracy Garcia	Cheyenne Regional Medical Center, Emergency Room Nurse Manager
Steve Legg,	Veterans Administration Emergency Manager
Richard Klouda	Fremont County Emergency Manager
Sharon Fluty	Director of EMS, Saratoga, WY
Susan Dasher	Uinta County Public Health Response Coordinator
Marty Luna	Laramie County Coroner
Alexandra Silva	Dep. Laramie County Coroner
Steve Wood	Global Secure Systems
Dr. Brian Maguire,	Global Secure Systems
Jacob Sones	Global Secure Systems

Visit S.P.I.R.E. online at: www.health.wyo.gov/sho/hazards/spire.html

Exercise Events Calendar (DRAFT)

Monday June 23

- Final training for Controllers and Evaluators (Mandatory for all Controllers/Evaluators)
- The delivery of exercise messages to build up the exercise and prepare participants for Tues.
- "Thinking Day." As messages are received participants should take time to think about what their actions would be in response to those messages.

Tuesday June 24

- Participants will need to be in place and ready prior to 9 a.m.
- "The first 72" this will cover the early stages of a pandemic

Wednesday June 25

- Participants will need to be in place and ready prior to 9 a.m.
- Pandemic in Wyoming

Thursday June 26

- Participants will need to be in place and ready prior to 8:30 a.m.
- Demobilization Phase
- Exercise will end at approximately 10:10:30 followed by a Hot Wash.

Recruit Controllers & Evaluators

Please recruit Evaluators and Controllers (C/E) for your participating location. For those wanting to use S.P.I.R.E. to meet JACHO you will need both a Controller and Evaluator.

Please send the names of your C/E's to Jim Smith so training can be scheduled. If C/E names can be provided by May 1, 2008 that would be best.

Exercise Contacts
Within the county contact your Public Health Response Coordinator.

WDH Exercise Coordinator
Jim Smith 307-777-6777
james.smith5@health.wyo.gov