

City of Sioux Falls/Minnehaha County
Pandemic Influenza Response Plan

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I. INTRODUCTION

Seasonal influenza epidemics recur yearly due to subtypes of influenza that circulate worldwide. These epidemics are responsible for an average of 36,000 deaths annually in the United States. Seasonal influenza primarily impacts those in the community with weaker immune responses (the very young, old and chronically ill) since most people develop some degree of immunity to the viruses through annual illness or vaccine. This immune response helps protect from the serious consequences of influenza. Influenza pandemics, however, are distinct from seasonal influenza epidemics and represent one of the greatest potential threats to the public's health. Pandemic influenza refers to a worldwide epidemic due to a new, dramatically different strain of influenza virus. A pandemic virus strain can spread rapidly from person to person and, if severe, can cause high levels of disease and death around the world.

Pandemic viruses develop in two main ways. First, wild birds are the reservoir for all influenza viruses. Most avian influenza viruses do not infect or cause significant disease in humans. However, new pandemic influenza viruses can arise when avian influenza viruses acquire the ability to infect and cause disease in humans, and then spread rapidly from person to person. Second, all influenza viruses experience frequent, slight changes to their genetic structure over time. This necessitates a change in annual vaccines to protect against seasonal influenza. Occasionally, however, influenza viruses undergo a major change in genetic composition through the combination of an avian and human virus.

The creation of a novel virus means that most, if not all, people in the world will have never been exposed to the new strain and have no immunity to the disease. It also means that new vaccines must be developed and therefore are not likely to be available for months, during which time many people could become infected and seriously ill.

During the 20th century, three pandemics occurred that spread worldwide within a year. The influenza pandemic of 1918 was especially virulent, killing a large number of young, otherwise healthy adults. It is now known that this pandemic was caused by an avian influenza virus that suddenly developed the ability to infect humans and to easily spread from person to person. The pandemic caused more than 500,000 deaths in the United States and more than 40 million deaths around the world. Subsequent pandemics in 1957-58 and 1968-69 caused far fewer fatalities in the U.S., 70,000 and 34,000 deaths respectively, but caused significant morbidity and mortality around the world. These two pandemics were caused by an influenza virus that arose from genetic reassortment between human and avian viruses.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that in the U.S. alone, an influenza pandemic could infect up to 200 million people and cause between 200,000 and 1,900,000 deaths. The worldwide public health and scientific community is increasingly concerned about the potential for a pandemic to arise from the widespread and growing avian influenza A (H5N1) outbreak

across several continents. Although many officials believe it is inevitable that future influenza pandemics will occur, it is impossible to predict the exact timing of these outbreaks.

Table 1. Estimated number of Episodes of Illness, Healthcare Utilization, and Deaths Associated with Moderate and Severe Pandemic Influenza Scenarios for the US Population and the Sioux Falls Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) ^{1,2}

Characteristic	Moderate (1958/68–like)		Severe (1918 – like)	
	US	Sioux Falls MSA	US	Sioux Falls MSA
Illness	90 Million	53,862	90 Million	53,862
Outpatient Care	45 million	26,932	45 million	26,932
Hospitalization	865,000	518	9,900,000	5925
ICU Care	128,750	77	1,485,000	889
Mechanical Ventilation	64,875	39	742,500	446
Deaths	209,000	125	1,903,000	1139

¹ Estimates are based on extrapolation from past pandemics in the US, and do not include the potential impacts of interventions not available during the 20th Century pandemics.

² The calculations used to determine the figures in Table one are based on the following assumptions:

- o The Sioux Falls MSA accounts for 0.6% of the total US population.
- o Susceptibility to the pandemic influenza subtype will be universal.
- o The clinical disease attack rate will be 30% in the overall population. Illness rates will be highest among school-aged children (about 40%) and decline with age. Among working adults, an average of 20% will become ill during a community outbreak.
- o Of those who become ill with influenza, 50% will seek outpatient medical care.

There are several characteristics of an influenza pandemic that differentiate it from other public health emergencies. First, it has the potential to suddenly cause illness in a very large number of people, who could easily overwhelm the health care system throughout the nation. A pandemic outbreak could also jeopardize essential community services by causing high levels of absenteeism in critical positions in every workforce. It is likely that vaccines against the new virus will not be available for six to eight months following the emergence of the virus. Basic services, such as health care, law enforcement, fire, emergency response, communications, transportation, and utilities, could be disrupted during a pandemic. Finally, the pandemic, unlike many other emergency events, could last for several weeks, if not months.

Summary of Key Pandemic Preparedness and Response Principles Addressed in this Plan

Develop countywide disease surveillance programs, coordinated with state and federal efforts, to detect pandemic influenza strains in humans and animals.

- i. Global surveillance networks identify circulating influenza strains, including novel strains that have the potential for causing pandemic outbreaks among domestic animals and persons in several countries.
- ii. A heightened local surveillance system, coupled with state, national and international surveillance efforts and laboratory testing, serves as an early warning system for potential pandemics and a critical component of pandemic response plans.
- iii. Local surveillance during a pandemic outbreak provides important information regarding the severity of disease, characteristics of the affected population, and impacts on the health care system.

Ensure mass vaccination plans and protocols are in place to rapidly administer vaccine and monitor vaccine effectiveness and safety.

- i. When a pandemic virus first emerges vaccine will not be available for six months or more.
- ii. Demand for vaccine will significantly exceed supply during the pandemic, and may not be available at all for the first several months. Therefore, priority groups must be established by Public Health, based on national recommendations from the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and in collaboration with The South Dakota Department of Health, to provide guidance regarding the use of vaccine in South Dakota when supplies become available. During a pandemic, however, the City of Sioux Falls will consider national guidelines and local epidemiological data to adjust and finalize priority groups as necessary.
- iii. As vaccine supplies increase, the City of Sioux Falls will, in collaboration with the Health Care Coalition, coordinate with local and regional partners to vaccinate the entire county population.
- iv. The City of Sioux Falls in collaboration with Community Based Organizations will work to assure that residents best reached through non-traditional forms of communication will have access to vaccine information.

Establish guidelines for the utilization of antiviral medications by medical staff for treatment and prevention of influenza.

- i. Antiviral medications can both prevent and treat influenza infection. Prophylaxis of individuals would need to continue throughout the period of exposure, possibly weeks to months. Treatment can decrease the severity of illness and resulting complications of infection. For optimal impact, treatment needs to be started as soon as possible and within 48 hours of the onset of illness.
- ii. The current supply of influenza antiviral medications is extremely limited and production cannot be rapidly expanded.
- iii. Educating physicians, nurses, and other health care workers before and during the pandemic on the appropriate use of antiviral drugs will be important to maximize the effective use of antiviral medications.
- iv. Local protocols for prioritizing the use of antiviral medicines will be developed in consultation with the South Dakota State Department of Health, and will be based on federal guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

Develop capabilities to implement non-pharmaceutical interventions to decrease the spread of disease throughout Sioux Falls as guided by the epidemiology of the pandemic.

- i. Emphasizing infection control measures in health care facilities, including hospitals, out-patient care settings and long-term care facilities, as well as workplaces, other community settings and the home can limit the spread of influenza among high-risk populations and health care workers.
- ii. Voluntary isolation of ill persons either in a health care facility or at home is an infection control measure that will be implemented throughout all stages of a pandemic.
- iii. Due to the fact that influenza is highly infectious and can be transmitted by people who appear to be well, quarantine of exposed individuals is likely to be a viable strategy for preventing the spread of the disease in the community only during the first stages of a pandemic.
- iv. Social distancing measures such as limiting public gatherings and closing schools, colleges, universities, large child care centers, libraries, houses of worship, stadiums, and recreational facilities are intended to decrease opportunities for close contact among persons in the community, thereby decreasing the potential for influenza transmission among people and possibly slowing the spread of a pandemic. Decisions makers must

consider the scope of their legal authorities, social and economic impacts, anticipated effectiveness and current epidemiology of the pandemic prior to implementing these measures.

- v. The City of Sioux Falls will work in collaboration with local partners to assure planning includes strategies to reduce the spread of illness in congregate settings serving homeless persons where challenges to social distancing exist.

Assist local health care system partners, response agencies, elected leaders, the business community, and community based organizations with pandemic preparedness planning aimed at maintaining the provision of health care services, sustaining essential community services, and limiting the spread of disease throughout the duration of a pandemic.

- i. An influenza pandemic will place a substantial burden on inpatient and outpatient health care services. Demands for medical supplies, equipment, and hospital beds may exceed available resources for several weeks.
- ii. Strategies to increase hospital bed availability during a pandemic include deferring elective procedures, implementing more stringent criteria for hospital admission, earlier discharge of patients with follow-up by home health care personnel, and establishing alternate care facilities in nontraditional sites.
- iii. As demands for health care resources and services increase sharply, illness and absenteeism among health care workers will further strain the ability to provide quality care
- iv. Absenteeism during a pandemic among critical infrastructure agencies, first response agencies, businesses, and community based organizations must be accounted for in business continuity plans
- v. Training and technical support will be provided by the City of Sioux Falls Health Department and others agencies to Community Based Organizations serving vulnerable populations to help assure they are able to sustain their critical services and assist the clients they serve in their preparedness efforts.

Communicate with and educate the public, health care providers, local government and community leaders, and the media about the consequences of influenza pandemic and what each person can do to prepare.

- i. Influencing public behavior towards basic infection control measures (hand washing, using alcohol hand gel, respiratory etiquette, staying home when sick and avoiding unnecessary contact with other person during a pandemic) will be a key factor in limiting the spread of influenza during in a pandemic
- ii. Communicating clear, concise and accurate information about influenza, the course of the pandemic, and response activities will increase awareness, limit public panic and speculation, and sustain confidence in the public health systems.

II. PURPOSE OF THE PLAN

The Pandemic Influenza Response Plan for Sioux Falls and Minnehaha County provides guidance to The City of Sioux Falls and regional partners regarding detection, response and recovery from an influenza pandemic. The Plan describes the unique challenges posed by a pandemic that may necessitate specific leadership decisions, response actions, and communications mechanisms. Specifically, the purpose of the plan is to:

- Define preparedness activities that should be undertaken before a pandemic occurs that will enhance the effectiveness of response measures.
- Describe the response, coordination and decision making structure that will incorporate the City of Sioux Falls, Minnehaha County, the health care system in Sioux Falls, other local response agencies, and state and federal agencies during a pandemic.
- Define roles and responsibilities for The City of Sioux Falls, local health care partners and local response agencies during all phases of a pandemic.
- Describe public health interventions in a pandemic response and the timing of such interventions.
- Serve as a guide for local health care system partners, response agencies and businesses in the development of pandemic influenza response plans.
- Provide technical support and information on which preparedness and response actions are based.

During an influenza pandemic, the City of Sioux Falls, Minnehaha County and local and regional partners will utilize the plan to achieve the following goals:

- ⇒ Limit the number of illnesses and deaths
- ⇒ Preserve continuity of essential functions (government and business)
- ⇒ Minimize social disruption
- ⇒ Minimize economic losses

The plan will be coordinated with other preparedness plans and activities, and will be coordinated with the plans of community, state and federal partners.

III. SCOPE OF THE PLAN

The Plan is a support plan to Emergency Support Function 8 (Health and Medical Services) of the Emergency Operations Plan. Emergency Support Function 8 and its annexes are referenced in the Plan as they provide a broad description of the responsibilities, authorities, and actions associated with public health emergencies.

The Plan primarily focuses on the roles, responsibilities, and activities of the City of Sioux Falls and Minnehaha County. However, specific responsibilities for key response partners are included to highlight points of coordination between agencies during an influenza pandemic. It is expected that health care facilities and health care professionals, essential service providers, local government officials, and business leaders will develop and incorporate procedures and protocols addressing influenza preparedness and response activities into their emergency response plans.

IV. PLANNING ASSUMPTIONS

1. An influenza pandemic will result in the rapid spread of the infection with outbreaks throughout the world. Communities across the state and the country may be impacted simultaneously.
2. There will be a need for heightened global, national and local surveillance.
3. Birds with an avian influenza strain may arrive and cause avian outbreaks in Sioux Falls or Minnehaha County prior to the onset of a pandemic, significantly impacting domestic poultry, wild and exotic birds, and other species
4. The City of Sioux Falls and Minnehaha County will not be able to rely on mutual aid resources, State or Federal assistance to support local response efforts.
5. Antiviral medications will be in extremely short supply. Local supplies of antiviral medications may be prioritized by the Sioux Falls Health Department for use in hospitalized influenza patients, health care workers providing care for patients, and other priority groups based on current national guidelines and in consultation with the South Dakota Department of Health (SDDOH).
6. A vaccine for the pandemic influenza strain will likely not be available for 6 to 8 months following the emergence of a novel virus
 - a. As vaccine becomes available, it will be distributed and administered by The Sioux Falls Health Department based on current national guidelines and in consultation with the SDDOH.
 - b. Insufficient supplies of vaccines and antiviral medicines will place greater emphasis on social distancing strategies and public education to control the spread of the disease in the county.
7. The number of ill people requiring outpatient medical care and hospitalization could overwhelm the local health care system.
 - a. Hospitals and clinics will have to modify their operational structure to respond to high patient volumes and maintain functionality of critical systems.
 - b. The health care system may have to respond to increased demands for service while the medical workforce experiences 25-35% absenteeism due to illness.
 - c. Demand for inpatient beds and assisted ventilators will increase by 25% or more, and prioritization criteria for access to limited services and resources may be needed.
 - d. There will be tremendous demand for urgent medical care services.

- e. Infection control measures specific to management of influenza patients will need to be developed and implemented at health care facilities, out-patient care settings and long-term care facilities.
 - f. The health care system may need to develop alternative care sites (designated “flu triage clinics”) to relieve demand on hospital emergency rooms and care for persons not ill enough to merit hospitalization but who cannot be cared for at home.
 - g. Emergency Medical Service responders will face extremely high call volumes for several weeks, and may face 25% - 35% reduction in available staff.
 - h. The number of fatalities experienced during the first few weeks of a pandemic could overwhelm the resources of the Medical Examiner’s Office, hospital morgues, and funeral homes.
 - i. The demand for home care and social services will increase dramatically.
8. There could be significant disruption of public and privately owned critical infrastructure including transportation, commerce, utilities, public safety, agriculture and communications.
 9. Social distancing strategies aimed at reducing the spread of infection such as closing schools, community centers, and other public gather points and canceling public events may be implemented during a pandemic.
 10. Some persons will be unable or unwilling to comply with isolation directives. For others, social distancing strategies may be less feasible (for example, homeless populations who live or are sheltered in congregate settings). It will be important to develop and disseminate strategies for infection control appropriate for these environments and populations.
 11. It will be important to coordinate pandemic response strategies throughout counties surrounding Sioux Falls and Minnehaha County and the State due to the regional mobility of the population.
 12. The general public, health care system, response agencies, and elected leaders will need continuous updates on the status of the pandemic outbreak, impacts on critical services, the steps the City of Sioux Falls and Minnehaha County are taking to address the incident, and steps response partners and the public can take to protect themselves.

V. AUTHORITIES

Various state and local public officials have overlapping authorities with regard to protecting public health and safety. The Governor, the State Board of Health, the State Secretary of Health, the County Executive, the local Board of Health, the executive heads of cities and towns, and the Local Health Officer each can implement authorities within the scope of their jurisdiction aimed at protecting public health, including increasing social distancing by closing public or private facilities. During a pandemic, the presence of overlapping authorities will necessitate close communication and coordination between elected leaders and the Local Health Officer to ensure decisions and response actions are clear and consistent.

1. Governor of South Dakota

The Governor has authority to declare a state of emergency after finding that a disaster affects life, health, property, or the public peace. After proclaiming a state of emergency, the Governor has the authority to restrict public assembly, order periods of curfew, and prohibit activities that he or she believes should be prohibited in order to maintain life and health.

2. The State Secretary of Health

The Secretary of Health shall enforce all laws for the protection of the public health, and all rules, regulations, and orders of the State Board of Health. The Secretary also shall investigate outbreaks and epidemics of disease and advise Local Health Officers about measures to prevent and control outbreaks. The Secretary of Health may be designated by the Governor as a key leader and decision maker of the public health and health care-related response. The Secretary of Health may use Division Directors and the State Epidemiologist as leaders or response activities

3. Minnehaha County Commissioners

The Minnehaha County Commissioners may declare a state of emergency within the County when, in the judgment of the Commission, extraordinary measures are necessary to protect public peace, safety and welfare. Under a declaration of an emergency, the Commission may impose curfews, close any or all private businesses, close any or all public buildings and places including streets, alleys, schools, parks, beaches and amusement areas, and proclaim any such orders as are imminently necessary for the protection of life and property.

4. City of Sioux Falls/Minnehaha County Unified Command

The City of Sioux Falls and Minnehaha County have prepared a comprehensive plan, known as the Local Emergency Operations Plan (LEOP), for emergency management within the City of Sioux Falls and Minnehaha County to provide for a coordinated

and effective response to any incident, natural or man-made. Members of Unified Command may partially or fully implement this all hazards plan depending on the scope of the incident or event. Capabilities and responsibilities of Unified Command and functions to be performed in support of a City/County response to an emergency or disaster are identified in the LEOP.

5. Mayor of Sioux Falls

The Mayor of Sioux Falls may declare a state of emergency within the City when, in the judgment of the Mayor, extraordinary measures are necessary to protect public peace, safety and welfare. Under a declaration of emergency, the Mayor may impose curfews, close any or all business establishments, close any or all public buildings and places including streets, alleys, schools, parks, beaches and amusement areas, direct the use of all public and private health, medical and convalescent facilities and equipment to provide emergency health and medical care for injured persons, and proclaim any such orders as are imminently necessary for the protection of life and property.

6. Rural Mayors

Each political subdivision is authorized to exercise emergency functions. Cities throughout Minnehaha County may have explicit emergency powers and authorities in their municipal codes.

7. Local Health Officer

The Local Health Officer enforces the public health statutes, rules and regulations of the state and the local Board of Health. The Local Health Officer has the authority to control and prevent the spread of any dangerous, contagious or infectious diseases that may occur within his or her jurisdiction.

The Local Health Officer shall, when necessary, conduct investigations and institute disease control measures, including medical examination, testing, counseling, treatment, and vaccination, decontamination of persons or animals, isolation, quarantine, and inspection and closure of facilities. The Local Health Officer may initiate involuntary detention for isolation and quarantine of individuals or groups pursuant to provisions of state regulations.

The Local Health Officer has the authority to carry out steps needed to verify a diagnosis reported by a health care provider, and to require any person suspected of having a reportable disease or condition to submit to examinations to determine the presence of the disease. The Local Health Officer may also investigate any suspected case of a reportable disease or other condition if necessary, and require notification of additional conditions of public health importance occurring within the jurisdiction.

The Local Health Officer shall establish, in consultation with local health care

providers, health facilities, emergency management personnel, law enforcement agencies, and other entities deemed necessary, plans, policies, and procedures for instituting emergency measures to prevent the spread of communicable disease.

The Local Health Officer may take all necessary actions to protect the public health in the event of a contagious disease occurring in a school or day care center. Those actions may include, but are not limited to, closing the affected school, closing other schools, ordering cessation of certain activities, and excluding persons who are infected with the disease.

The Local Health Officer's powers are not contingent on a declaration of emergency by the Mayor of Sioux Falls.

VI. PHASES OF A PANDEMIC

The World Health Organization (WHO) has developed a global influenza preparedness plan that includes a classification system for guiding planning and response activities for an influenza pandemic. This classification system is comprised of six phases of increasing public health risk associated with the emergence and spread of a new influenza virus subtype that may lead to a pandemic. The Director General of WHO formally declares the current global pandemic phase and adjusts the phase level to correspond with pandemic conditions around the world. For each phase, the global influenza preparedness plan identifies response measures WHO will take, and recommends actions that countries around the world should implement.

Pandemic Phases	Public Health Goals
<p>Interpandemic Period</p> <p><i>Phase 1</i> – No new influenza virus subtypes detected in humans. An influenza virus subtype that has caused human infection may be present in animals. If present in animals, the risk of human infection or disease is considered low.</p> <p><i>Phase 2</i> – No new influenza virus subtypes detected in humans. However, a circulating animal influenza virus subtype poses substantial risk of human disease.</p>	<p>Strengthen influenza pandemic preparedness at all levels. Closely monitor human and animal surveillance data.</p> <p>Minimize the risk of transmission of animal influenza virus to humans; detect and report such transmission rapidly if it occurs.</p>
<p>Pandemic Alert Period</p> <p><i>Phase 3</i> – Human infection(s) are occurring with a new subtype, but no human-to-human spread, or at most rare instances of spread to a close contact.</p> <p><i>Phase 4</i> – Small cluster(s) of human infection with limited human-to-human transmission but spread is highly localized suggesting that the virus is not well adapted to humans.</p> <p><i>Phase 5</i> – Larger cluster(s) of human infection but human-to-human spread is localized, suggesting that the virus is becoming increasingly better adapted to humans, but may not yet be fully transmissible (substantial pandemic risk).</p>	<p>Ensure rapid characterization of the new virus subtype and early detection, notification and response to additional cases.</p> <p>Contain the new virus within limited foci or delay spread to gain time to implement preparedness measures, including vaccine development.</p> <p>Maximize efforts to contain or delay spread to possibly avert a pandemic, and to gain time to implement response measures.</p>
<p>Pandemic Period</p> <p><i>Phase 6</i> – Pandemic is declared. Increased and sustained transmission in the general population.</p>	<p>Implement response measures including social distancing to minimize pandemic impacts</p>

In accordance with the Department of Health and Human Services Pandemic Influenza Strategic Plan, HHS will determine and communicate the pandemic phase level for the U.S. based on the global pandemic phase and the extent of disease spread throughout the country.

The City of Sioux Falls/Minnehaha Pandemic Influenza Response Plan corresponds to the WHO pandemic phases. Each phase within the Plan is subdivided into two components, "affected" and "not affected" depending upon whether human infection is occurring within the local region. Appropriate preparedness and response measures are identified for each phase, with implementation based in part on whether Sioux Falls or Minnehaha County is affected (See Appendix D).

Pandemic Phases	Sub Phase
Phase 1	No sub phases.
Phase 2	A. Local area is affected or has extensive travel / trade links with affected areas
	B. Not affected
Phase 3	A. Local area is affected or has extensive travel / trade links with affected areas
	B. Not affected
Phase 4	A. Local area is affected or has extensive travel / trade links with affected areas
	B. Not affected
Phase 5	A. Local area is affected or has extensive travel / trade links with affected areas
	B. Not affected
Phase 6	A. Not yet affected
	B. Local area is affected or has extensive travel / trade links with affected areas
	C. Subsided
	D. Next wave

VII. RESPONSIBILITIES

City of Sioux Falls Public Health

1. Facilitate countywide pandemic planning and preparedness efforts.
2. Coordinate the community's emergency public health response through the local Emergency Operations Center, the City of Sioux Falls/Minnehaha County Unified Command and City/County Disaster Plan.
3. Educate the public, health care system partners, response partners, businesses, community based organizations and elected leaders about influenza pandemics, expected impacts and consequences, and preventive measures.
4. Provide training and technical support to local agencies, Community Based Organizations, and government entities serving vulnerable populations to assist their preparedness planning.
5. Conduct city-wide surveillance to track the spread of the human disease and its impact on the community.
6. Identify and declare diseases of public health significance, and communicate such declarations to health system partners.
7. Coordinate planning for and implementation of disease containment strategies and authorities.
8. Provide ongoing technical support to the health care system including current surveillance guidelines, recommendations for clinical case management, infection control measures and laboratory testing.
9. Support the health care system's planning and response efforts for medical surge capacity including mass casualty and mass fatality incidents.
10. Support the development and management of local antiviral medication stockpiles.
11. Develop and implement protocols for the use of limited supplies of influenza vaccine and antiviral medicines consistent with national guidelines and in consultation with the SDDOH.
12. Direct distribution and administration of vaccine, including mass vaccination efforts.
13. Provide effective communications to the public, the media, elected

officials, health care providers, business and community leaders throughout public health emergencies.

Local Hospitals, Clinics, Providers and other Health System Partners

1. Health care system partners will participate in a Community Planning Health Care Coalition facilitated by the Sioux Falls Health Department to maximize the health care system's ability to provide medical care during a pandemic. Specific steps include:
 - a. Identify and prioritize response issues affecting the county-wide health system during a pandemic.
 - b. Develop mechanisms to efficiently share information and resources between health system partners, and to communicate with the Sioux Falls Health Department and relevant emergency operations centers, as appropriate.
 - c. Coordinate with the Local Health Officer regarding policy level decisions regarding the operations of the local health system.
 - d. Assure that health care professionals receive relevant communications from the Sioux Falls Health Department in a timely manner.
2. Hospitals and other health care facilities will develop pandemic response plans consistent with the health care planning guidance contained in the Health and Human Services Pandemic Influenza Plan. Health care facility pandemic response plans will address medical surge capacity to sustain health care delivery capabilities when routine systems are overwhelmed.
3. Health care facilities and health care providers will participate in local influenza surveillance activities
4. Hospitals will develop infection control plans to triage and isolate infectious patients and protect staff from disease transmission

State Department of Health (DOH)

1. Involve public and private sector partners (included healthcare and other infrastructure) in response planning.
2. Integrate multiple planning activities for similar incidents.
3. Provide technical expertise as local communities develop response plans.

4. Develop data management systems to carry out the plan (e.g., isolation/quarantine database).
5. Exercise local and state-level plans.
6. Coordinate with neighboring jurisdictions and tribes.
7. Perform evaluation of information technology infrastructure and planning.
8. Establish a Pandemic Preparedness coordination Committee that represents all relevant stakeholders (including governmental, public health, healthcare, emergency response, agriculture, education, business, communications, community based and faith-based sectors, as well as private citizens) and that will assist South Dakota in articulating strategic priorities and overseeing the development and execution of the operation pandemic plan.

Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

1. Provide overall guidance on pandemic influenza planning within the United States.
2. Coordinate the national response to an influenza pandemic.
3. Provide guidance and tools to promote pandemic preparedness planning and coordination for States and local jurisdictions.
4. Provide guidance to state and local health departments regarding prioritization of limited supplies of antiviral medications and vaccines.
5. Determine and communicate the pandemic phase for the U.S. based on the global pandemic phase (established by WHO) and the extent of disease spread throughout the country.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

1. Conduct national and international disease surveillance.
2. Serve as a liaison to the WHO.
3. Develop reference strains for vaccines and conduct research to understand transmission and pathogenicity of viruses with pandemic potential.
4. Develop, evaluate, and modify disease control and prevention strategies.

5. Support vaccination programs; monitor vaccine safety.
6. Investigate pandemic outbreaks; define the epidemiology of the disease.
7. Monitor the nation-wide impact of a pandemic.
8. Coordinate the stockpiling of antiviral drugs and other essential materials within the Strategic National Stockpile.
9. Activate the SNS when the WHO raises the Global Pandemic Alert Level to Phase 4 and deploy antiviral supplies to each state.
10. Coordinate the implementation of international – U.S. travel restrictions.
11. Under federal authority, implement isolation, quarantine and social distancing measures on tribal lands, as needed.

World Health Organization

1. Monitor global pandemic conditions and provide information updates.
2. Facilitate enhanced global pandemic preparedness, surveillance, vaccine development, and health response.
3. Declare global pandemic phase and adjust phases based on current outbreak conditions.

Specific Responsibilities of the Sioux Falls Health Department

Director and Local Health Officer (Local Health Officer)

- Communicate and coordinate directly with the Unified Command, Mayor and Council regarding pandemic preparedness and response activities.
- Coordinate directly with Health Care Coalition partners and make decisions regarding strategies, thresholds and methods for reallocating resources and temporary restructuring of health system operations in response to a pandemic.
- Authorize and communicate public health directives regarding social distancing strategies and other protective actions to elected leaders, the business community, schools, the health care coalition and other partners.

- Assign responsibilities to Sioux Falls Health Department staff for planning and responding to the pandemic.
- Ensure business continuity of critical Sioux Falls Health Department functions during all phases of the pandemic.
- Direct isolation and quarantine of individuals and groups, as needed, based on recommendations.

Public Information Officer (PIO)

- Provide accurate, timely information to the public regarding preparations for a pandemic, the impacts of the outbreak, local response actions and disease control recommendations.
- Educate the public on how they can protect themselves from becoming infected and infecting others.
- Activate and direct the management of public information call centers focused on providing health information to the public.

City of Sioux Falls Health Department

- Lead pandemic planning and preparedness efforts for the City of Sioux Falls in conjunction with local, state and federal response partners.
- Conduct training, drills and evaluated exercises to enhance the City of Sioux Falls' readiness to respond to a pandemic.
- Coordinate planning and response activities with hospitals and community health clinics.
- Coordinate activation and management of the Sioux Falls Health Department Emergency Operations Center.
- Advise the Local Health Officer regarding the potential social and economic impacts of social distancing measures, and the extent to which implementation of such measures is feasible.
- Coordinate department-wide business continuity efforts specific to the potential impacts of a pandemic.
- Provide culturally appropriate technical assistance and training to local agencies, Community Based Organizations, and large informal networks serving vulnerable populations.
- Participate in planning activities focused to develop capacity for community-based influenza evaluation and treatment clinics.

- Lead and coordinate all mass vaccination response activities.
- Lead efforts with community partners to manage a care call center system.
- Coordinate countywide pandemic planning, education and outreach efforts with homeless service agencies.
- Provide technical assistance to licensed child care centers regarding preparedness for pandemic influenza.
- Coordinate city-wide pandemic planning, education and outreach efforts with:
 - o School systems
 - o Business community
 - o Community based organizations
- Coordinate with economic development agencies and chambers of commerce regarding the economic consequences of a pandemic
- Facilitate pandemic planning and response activities with city-wide EMS providers and the 911 dispatch center.
- Develop protocols for maintaining critical EMS response capability during a pandemic generating high call volumes and reducing available EMS resources.
- Identify mission critical functions that must be maintained during all hazards including a pandemic.
- Identify staff that can be cross trained to perform emergency response functions.
- Identify functions that could be temporarily discontinued or performed via telecommuting for several weeks.
- Be prepared to mobilize all necessary staff to support the PHSKC pandemic influenza response, as directed by the PHSKC Incident Commander.

Minnehaha County Coroner's Office

- Coordinate with and support hospitals regarding mass fatalities planning and response.
- Incorporate funeral home directors into planning efforts for pandemic response.
- In conjunction with community partners, coordinate planning and

development of victim assistance centers.

VIII. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

A. Overview

1. The Sioux Falls Health Department, through the City of Sioux Falls/Minnehaha County Unified Command with representatives from hospitals, out-patient medical groups, private physicians, emergency medical providers, mental health providers, long-term care facilities, home health agencies, and pharmacists will develop strategies for:
 - a. Coordinating the health care system response during a pandemic and other public health emergencies;
 - b. Assuring the most effective use of available health care system resources during health emergencies; and
 - c. Advising the Local Health Officer regarding the impacts of the pandemic on the health care system, on the need for changes in health care system operations to respond to the pandemic, and on strategies to implement necessary changes.
2. The City of Sioux Falls/Minnehaha County Unified Command will authorize the acquisition of state or federal medical resources in support of health care system partners.
3. The City of Sioux Falls/Minnehaha County Unified Command will coordinate response actions with the Washington DOH and neighboring local health jurisdictions.
4. The City of Sioux Falls and Minnehaha County response actions will emphasize disease surveillance and investigation, social distancing measures to reduce the spread of infection, and providing frequent communication and education to the public about the pandemic, the public health response, and steps the public can take to reduce the risks of infection.
5. Throughout a pandemic, the City of Sioux Falls/Minnehaha County Unified Command will advise the Policy Makers Group regarding public health response activities, social distancing measures and management of resources.

B. Direction and Control

1. The public health response will be managed per the guidance and protocols included in this Plan, the City/County All-Hazards Plan and ESF 8 of the City Emergency Operations Plan.
2. The City of Sioux Falls and Minnehaha County, along with all response

partners will operate under the Incident Command System throughout the duration of the pandemic response.

3. The Sioux Falls Health Department will activate the City/County Emergency Operations Center to coordinate the Region-wide public health and medical response during a pandemic.
4. During Pandemic Phases 1 and 2 where Sioux Falls/Minnehaha County is not directly affected, the Sioux Falls Health Department leads health system preparedness efforts and countywide education efforts for pandemic response.
5. During Pandemic Phases 3, 4, 5 and 6, the Sioux Falls Health Department will coordinate with Health Care partners to establish and implement Incident Command as the operational structure for directing and managing health care system resources and information.
6. The Sioux Falls Health Department will assess the viability of social distancing measures and establish criteria for their implementation.
7. Upon reaching Pandemic Phase 4 (global) the City of Sioux Falls/Minnehaha County Unified Command will:
 - a. Activate the City of Sioux Falls/Minnehaha County Pandemic Influenza Response Plan and ESF 8 under Unified Command to coordinate the health care system response.
 - b. Provide regular briefings to the Mayor of Sioux Falls, Minnehaha County Commissioners, City and County policy makers as well as other policy makers within local government. Briefings will address the nature of the disease, its communicability and virulence, availability of vaccines and antivirals, actions that are being taken to minimize the impact, actions that response partners should implement to protect critical functions, and health information being shared with the public and health care providers.

C. Communications

1. City of Sioux Falls/Minnehaha County Unified Command serves as the lead agency for risk communications messaging and public education regarding pandemic influenza. The Health Care Coalition will coordinate with the City of Sioux Falls/Minnehaha County Unified Command to ensure consistency of communications and education messaging regarding pandemic influenza.
2. Communications with the public and health care providers will be a critical component of the pandemic response, including managing the

utilization of health care services. This plan's communications goals are to:

- a. Provide accurate, consistent, and comprehensive information about pandemic influenza including case definitions, treatment options, infection control measures, and reporting requirements.
- b. Instill and maintain public confidence in public health and regional health care systems and their ability to respond to and manage an influenza pandemic.
- c. Ensure an efficient mechanism for managing information between the City of Sioux Falls/Minnehaha County Unified Command, health system partners and response agencies.
- d. Contribute to maintaining order, minimizing public panic and fear, and facilitating public compliance by providing accurate, rapid, and complete information.
- e. Address rumors, inaccuracies, and misperceptions as quickly as possible, and prevent the stigmatization of affected groups.

3. Communications During Pandemic Phases 1, 2, 3

- a. The Sioux Falls Health Department Command Communications Section:
 - i. Assesses the information needs of health care providers.
 - ii. Assesses the information needs of the general public.
 - iii. Identifies any logistical constraints to effective communications, such as communications staffing and equipment needs, and public information call center staffing and capacity.
 - iv. Intensifies public education efforts about influenza pandemics, animal influenza and steps that can be taken to reduce exposure to infection. Information may be disseminated via web site postings, newspaper editorials, flyers and billboards, television and radio broadcasts
 - v. Coordinates with CDC, and the South Dakota DOH, to develop common health messages and education materials.
- b. Educates provider, public officials, businesses and emergency responders about influenza pandemics and steps they should take to plan for pandemic outbreaks.

- c. The City of Sioux Falls Health Director will convene appropriate internal sections and Divisions to develop a communications strategy for vulnerable populations including identifying appropriate community partners for reaching and educating diverse communities such as limited English speaking and homeless citizens.
- d. Assist the efforts of the City of Sioux Falls/Minnehaha County Unified Command PIO in assuring this information reaches agencies serving vulnerable populations.

4. Communications During Phases 4, 5, 6

- a. A JIC will be activated in support of the City of Sioux Falls/Minnehaha County Unified Command when the Sioux Falls Health Department PIO deems it necessary based on specific characteristics of the pandemic.
- b. The City of Sioux Falls/Minnehaha County Unified Command will evaluate the need to establish a public information call center to respond to public inquiries.
- c. The Sioux Falls Health Department will develop public information messages related to the utilization of the health care system and other resources (triage centers, call centers, etc).
- d. The City of Sioux Falls/Minnehaha County Unified Command will initiate regular communication briefings with hospital emergency rooms, infection control practitioners, infectious disease specialists, and community providers as necessary.
- e. The City of Sioux Falls/Minnehaha County Unified Command will conduct regular briefings with key response partners, utilizing the emergency zone structure, to inform EOC staff, business leaders, community based organizations, first response agencies, schools and critical infrastructure agencies on the status of the pandemic and local response actions.
- f. As the pandemic expands, the JIC will provide daily updates on the pandemic and will organize regular media briefings.
- g. The JIC will keep the public informed about steps that should be taken to protect against infection, treatment options for individuals who are infected, the status of the spread of the outbreak in the community, and the disease control and containment strategies that are being implemented.

D. Mitigation

Mitigation activities are taken in advance of an influenza pandemic to prevent or temper its impact. Mitigation efforts should occur primarily during pandemic phases 1-3.

City of Sioux Falls and Minnehaha County pre-event mitigation activities include:

1. Planning, exercising, evaluating and revising the Pandemic Influenza Response Plan.
2. Training and equipping Sioux Falls Health Department staff to assure competencies and capacities needed to respond to a pandemic outbreak.
3. Developing strategic partnerships and facilitating capacity building with local hospitals, non-hospital-based health care providers and agencies, other health care system stakeholders, and local, state and federal response agencies and their staff.
4. Educating response partners, the media and public about the consequences of influenza pandemics and recommended preparedness measures.
5. Provide preparedness training and technical assistance to local agencies, Community Based Organizations and large informal networks serving vulnerable populations.
6. Informing and updating local elected officials about the potential impacts of an influenza pandemic on essential services and infrastructure in Sioux Falls.
7. Stockpiling necessary medications and equipment that will be needed to respond to an influenza pandemic.

E. Surveillance

Influenza viruses have constantly changing antigenic properties. Both virologic surveillance and disease surveillance are critical for the following:

1. Detection of the introduction of virus into an area.
2. Detection of influenza-like illness (ILI) in an area.
3. Monitoring the circulating virus for antigenic and genetic changes and resistance traits.

4. Identifying which population is most affected and how severely through outpatient visits, hospitalizations and deaths.

Based on the collected information, a determination can be made on which control measures are most effective and re-evaluation of priority groups for vaccine and antiviral drug can be completed.

The South Dakota Department of Health, SD DOH, directs the operations of a state-wide system for communicable disease prevention, control, and treatment. The SD DOH conducts communicable disease surveillance which includes detection, assessment, and analysis.

Surveillance is accomplished in the following manner;

1. Virologic Surveillance: the South Dakota Public Health lab performs PCR and culture testing on all appropriately submitted samples. Influenza isolates are typed and sub-typed with selected isolates submitted to CDC for antigenic characterization.
2. Rapid Antigen Reporting: Hospitals, clinics, and laboratories send weekly aggregate reports of rapid antigen influenza testing (total tested and total positive).
3. Laboratory Confirmed Cases: Culture and direct fluorescent antibody (DFA) positive tests are reportable.
4. Mortality Surveillance: Pediatric influenza-associated deaths are reportable events. Adult influenza deaths are identified by death certificate review.
5. Facility Reports: Nursing home, daycare, school, and other institutional influenza outbreaks are reportable.

The South Dakota Department of Health encourages voluntary reporting of ILI outbreaks in long-term educational institutions (schools, colleges).

F. Public Education

1. Public education through all phases of a pandemic may involve any or all of the following elements:
 - a. Dissemination of printed and web-based information in multiple languages.
 - b. Active outreach to traditionally underserved populations, in cooperation with community organizations and other local entities serving them.

- c. Frequent use of radio, television and print media.
 - d. Coordination with other health care providers and care-givers to ensure consistent messaging.
 - e. Implementation of a public information call center system.
2. Government agencies, businesses, schools, health care system partners, community based organizations and other agencies within Sioux Falls and Minnehaha County will promote and disseminate pandemic influenza educational messages to their staff.
 3. The Sioux Falls Health Department leads efforts to strengthen support, outreach and training for vulnerable populations in Sioux Falls. Specific actions include:
 - a. Conduct needs assessments identifying types of resources and information vulnerable populations need during emergencies.
 - b. Provide training and job aids for community leaders, Community Based Organizations, medical interpreters and other local entities to serve as information conduits to vulnerable populations during emergencies.
 - c. Partner with cultural leaders and medical interpreters across the county to build sustainable preparedness capabilities within communities.

F. Vaccine and Antiviral Medications

1. Vaccine serves as the most effective preventive strategy against outbreaks of influenza, including pandemics. However, dissemination of an effective influenza vaccine during a pandemic faces several challenges:
 - a. A pandemic strain could be detected at any time, and production of vaccine could take six to eight months after the virus first emerges.
 - b. The target population for vaccination will ultimately include the entire U.S. population.
 - c. It is expected that demand for vaccine will initially outstrip supply and administration of limited vaccine will need to be prioritized based on national guidelines and in consultation with the South Dakota DOH.
 - d. It is likely that two doses of vaccine occurring two to four weeks apart will be required.
2. Antiviral medications may be useful for controlling and preventing influenza

prior to the availability of vaccines. However, there is a limited supply of antiviral drugs effective against pandemic strains.

3. Vaccine Management During Phases 1, 2, 3

- a. The Sioux Falls Health Department, in consultation with South Dakota DOH and based on national guidelines, is developing and refining recommendations for use of available vaccine based on local priority groups, and include as Appendix A to this plan.
- b. The Sioux Falls Health Department, in partnership with the South Dakota SDOH, is developing plans for administration of vaccine to priority groups, and eventually the entire county population, including activation of mass vaccination clinics.
- c. The Sioux Falls Health Department is coordinating with South Dakota DOH to determine how adverse reactions to the vaccine will be tracked and reported.
- d. The Sioux Falls Health Department is coordinating vaccination planning with private sector health care providers.

4. Vaccine Management During Phases 4, 5, 6

- a. In consultation with South Dakota DOH, the Sioux Falls Health Department will provide updated recommendations regarding priority groups to receive vaccination based on CDC guidelines.
- b. The Sioux Falls Health Department will finalize mass vaccination plans with local partners.
- c. The South Dakota DOH will prepare to receive, store and transport vaccine as needed.
- d. Sioux Falls Health Department will distribute and administer vaccine as soon as possible after receipt according to local priorities and CDC guidelines, including activation of mass vaccination plans as appropriate.

5. Antiviral Medication Management During Phases 1, 2, 3

- a. The South Dakota DOH is identifying priority groups and estimates the number of people in each priority group, based on CDC guidelines, to receive limited supplies of antiviral medications during a pandemic and include as Appendix B to this plan.
- b. The Sioux Falls Health Department is coordinating with appropriate health care system partners and elected leaders to form strategies for

acquiring antiviral medications.

- c. The Sioux Falls Health Department is developing an antiviral medication distribution plans.
- d. The Sioux Falls Health Department is developing and will distribute guidelines for medical providers regarding the use of antiviral medications.

6. Antiviral Medication Management During Phases 4, 5, 6

- a. The CDC will activate the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) when the World Health Organization raises the Global Pandemic Alert Level to Phase 4. At Phase 4, CDC will immediately distribute allocations of antiviral medications to each state.
- b. At Phase 4, South Dakota DOH will immediately activate the Reception, Storage and Staging (RSS) facility and prepare to receive the state's allocation of antiviral medications from the SNS.
- c. South Dakota DOH will immediately notify the local health departments to prepare to receive local allocations of SNS antiviral medications. Allocations will be disseminated to local health departments proportionally based on population.
- d. At Phase 4, the Sioux Falls Health Department will immediately activate Unified Command and prepare to redistribute SNS antiviral medications according to the South Dakota DOH and City of Sioux Falls Plan.

G. Isolation and Quarantine

- 1. During all phases of a pandemic, person's ill with influenza will be directed to remain in isolation in health care settings or at home, to the extent possible.
- 2. For persons living or staying in congregate settings, sponsoring agencies will be assisted in exploring and planning for alternatives to isolation and quarantine aimed at reducing the rate and degree of influenza spread.
- 3. Hospitals will implement isolation protocols for all patients suspected of being infected with pandemic influenza.
- 4. Quarantine of contacts of influenza cases may be beneficial during the earliest phases of a pandemic, and in response to an influenza virus that has not achieved the ability to spread easily from person-to-person.
- 5. Once person-to-person transmission is established locally, quarantine of

individuals exposed to influenza cases will be of limited value in preventing further spread of the disease.

6. Sioux Falls Health Department will work collaboratively with the South Dakota DOH on management of passengers requiring isolation, quarantine or follow-up.
7. The CDC will be the lead agency regarding recognition and management of ill and exposed travelers, including quarantine of exposed persons and isolation of ill persons, entering the country at ports of entry. CDC will not request local staff resources to support screening of travelers at ports of entry or quarantine of exposed passengers.
8. Isolation and Quarantine During Phases 1, 2, 3
 - a. The City of Sioux Falls in coordination with the South Dakota DOH is following CDC guidelines in developing and implementing isolation and quarantine procedures for individuals traveling from areas in which a novel influenza virus is present.
9. Isolation and Quarantine During Phases 4, 5, 6
 - a. The Sioux Falls Health Department will coordinate with health care providers and hospitals to ensure that influenza patients are isolated in appropriate facilities based on their medical condition (homes, hospital, and alternate care facility).
 - b. The Sioux Falls Health Department in coordination with the South Dakota DOH will develop protocols for quarantine of close contacts of persons infected with a potential pandemic strain.
 - c. The Sioux Falls Health Department in coordination with the South Dakota DOH will provide technical assistance to health care providers and hospitals regarding options for management of health care workers who come in contact with influenza patients or who develop influenza.

H. Social Distancing Strategies

1. Social distancing strategies are non-medical measures intended to reduce the spread of disease from person-to-person by discouraging or preventing people from coming in close contact with each other. Currently available information suggests that early and aggressive use of social distancing measures may provide the greatest benefit toward slowing the spread of an influenza pandemic. Specific social distancing strategies could include: closing public and private schools; minimizing social interactions at colleges, universities, houses of worship and libraries; closing non-essential government functions; implementing emergency staffing plans for the public and private sector including increasing telecommuting, flex scheduling and other options; and

closing public gathering places including stadiums, theaters, community centers and other facilities.

- a. The effectiveness of social distancing strategies is not known with certainty, nor is the degree of public compliance with measures that is necessary for success.
 - b. Implementation of social distancing strategies in the City of Sioux Falls/Minnehaha County may create social disruption and significant, long-term economic impacts. It is unknown how the public will respond to these measures.
 - c. It is assumed that social distancing strategies must be applied on a city-wide, countywide or statewide basis in order to maximize effectiveness.
2. The Sioux Falls Health Department will consult with the South Dakota DOH and the Healthcare Coalition throughout all phases of a pandemic regarding the epidemiology and impact of the pandemic in and around Sioux Falls/Minnehaha County.
 3. The Sioux Falls Health Department will review social distancing strategies and current epidemiological data during each phase and coordinate with The City of Sioux Falls/Minnehaha County Unified Command, the Mayor of Sioux Falls, City and County Policy Makers regarding social distancing actions that should be implemented to limit the spread of the disease.
 4. Decisions regarding the implementation of social distancing measures including suspending large public gatherings and closing stadiums, theaters, houses of worship, community centers, and other facilities where large numbers of people gather will be made jointly and concurrently by the Sioux Falls Health Department, the City of Sioux Falls/Minnehaha County Unified Command and the City and County Policy Makers.
 5. Decisions regarding the closing of all public and private schools, licensed child care centers, and minimizing social interaction at colleges, universities and libraries in Sioux Falls/Minnehaha County will be made by the City of Sioux Falls/Minnehaha County Unified Command and Policy Makers Group after consultation with local school superintendents, child care center operators, college/university presidents and elected officials.
 6. The Sioux Falls Health Department working with the City and County Policy Makers and the City of Sioux Falls/Minnehaha County Unified Command will coordinate in advance the timing and implementation of social distancing decisions in Sioux Falls in coordination with the South Dakota DOH and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (see Appendix D3).
 7. Social Distancing Strategies During Phases 1, 2, 3

- a. The Sioux Falls Health will educate elected officials, government leaders, school officials, response partners, homeless services agencies, businesses, the media and the public regarding the consequences of pandemics, the use of social distancing strategies, the associated impacts they cause and the process for implementing these measures.
- b. The Sioux Falls Health Department in collaboration with the Sioux Falls Homeless Coalition will provide guidance and instructions regarding infection control strategies to homeless service agencies that operate congregate care facilities.

8. Social Distancing Strategies During Phases 4, 5, 6

- a. The Sioux Falls Health Department in collaboration with the South Dakota DOH will coordinate with elected officials regarding decision making and implementation of social distancing strategies that are commensurate with the severity of illness and societal impact of the pandemic.
- b. Specific, city-wide strategies that may be identified by the City of Sioux Falls/Minnehaha County Unified Command include:
 - i. Direct government agencies and the private sector to implement emergency staffing plans to maintain critical business functions while maximizing the use of telecommuting, flex schedules, and alternate work site options.
 - ii. Advise residents to defer non-essential travel to other areas of the country and the world affected by pandemic influenza outbreaks.
 - iii. Suspend public events where large numbers of people congregate including sporting events, concerts, and parades.
 - iv. Close public and private schools, and licensed child care centers
 - v. Implement measures to limit social interaction at libraries, houses of worship, colleges and universities
 - vi. Close all theaters, community centers, and other places where large groups gather.
 - vii. Suspend government functions not involved in pandemic response or maintaining critical continuity functions.
- c. The Sioux Falls Health Department will participate in conference calls with the Health Care Coalition, the South Dakota DOH and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to coordinate the timing, public announcement, and impacts of social distancing measures (see Appendix D3).

D. The Sioux Falls Health Department will monitor the effectiveness of social distancing strategies in controlling the spread of disease and will advise appropriate decision-makers when social distancing strategies should be relaxed or ended.

IX. Health and Medical Response

A. Overview

1. A severe influenza pandemic is expected to significantly increase the demand for health care services at a time when the availability of health care workers will be reduced due to illness. Consequently, the imbalance between supply and demand is likely to overwhelm current health care system capacity and necessitate restrictive strategies to best manage the demand on health care system resources.
2. During a pandemic, all efforts will be employed to sustain the functionality of the health care system while maintaining an acceptable level of medical care. In order to accomplish this, health care delivery system partners may need to:
 - a. limit the provision of health care services to patients with urgent, health problems;
 - b. take steps to increase health care system capacity for patients who would normally require inpatient care;
 - c. mobilize, reassign and deploy staff within and between health care facilities to address critical shortfalls;
 - d. implement patient triage and resource management processes;
 - e. provide alternative mechanisms for patients to address non-urgent health care needs such as telephone and internet-based consultation.

B. Health and Medical Response Coordination

1. A severe influenza pandemic will likely generate significant health and medical impacts across all jurisdictions and functional agencies within Sioux Falls/Minnehaha County. An effective response to the consequences of a pandemic will require integrated and coordinated management and direction by organizations with specific authorities, responsibilities and expertise in health and medical services. Therefore, upon activation of the City of Sioux Falls/Minnehaha County Pandemic Influenza Response Plan, the City of Sioux Falls/Minnehaha County Unified Command will be implemented to effectively manage and direct the countywide health and medical response. The following parties within the Regional County health care system will have command responsibilities within the City of Sioux Falls/Minnehaha County Unified Command:
 - Public Health Director
 - o Policy lead for the public health response
 - o Informs and advises locally elected officials regarding the health consequences throughout the incident

- o Maintains overall legal authority for the health and medical response

- Health Care Coalition

- o Comprised of Administrative representation from hospitals
- o Direct the hospital-based and ambulatory care response within their facilities

- Minnehaha County Coroner

- o Directs the county-wide response to mass fatalities events
- o Maintains legal authorities governing the identification, transportation and final disposition of human remains during mass fatalities events

2. An organizational structure utilizing Unified Command to lead the health and medical response across the regional will ensure that each agency involved in the response is aware of the plans, actions and constraints of all others. No agency participating under Unified Command will compromise their legal authorities or requirements. Participating agencies will minimize inefficiency and duplication of effort, improve information flow, and combine efforts toward achieving a single set of response objectives.

3. The City of Sioux Falls/Minnehaha County Unified Command will be responsible for:

- a. Establishing a common set of operational objectives and implementation strategies (Incident Action Plan) for the countywide health and medical response.
- b. Directing specific operational components of the health and medical response including the activation and management of Alternate Care Facilities and activation of medical call center and web-based triage systems.
- c. Jointly coordinating the accuracy and dissemination of health and medical information to the public through a Joint Information System.

4. Communications

- a. The City of Sioux Falls/Minnehaha County Unified Command members may coordinate primarily via conference calls and video conference throughout the duration of a pandemic.
- b. Health and medical public information messages will be coordinated among all health care partners through a Joint Information System consistent with policies defined in the Local

Emergency Operations Plan.

5. Operations

The Operations Section of the City of Sioux Falls/Minnehaha County Unified Command will support the county wide medical response as necessary.

6. Logistical Support

- a. Coordination and mobilization of countywide resources in support of the Unified Command.
- b. Logistics will coordinate public health resources in support of the countywide health and medical response. Requests for State and Federal support, including the Strategic National Stockpile, will be managed by the City of Sioux Falls/Minnehaha County Unified Command.

7. Planning

The Planning Section of the City of Sioux Falls/Minnehaha County Unified Command will coordinate two functions:

- a. Develop a unified incident action plan (IAP) and operational objectives for each operational period providing policy level direction for the countywide health and medical response. Submit the IAP for approval by the Unified Command and distribute to response partners.
- b. Provide status reports, at intervals defined in the IAP, to the Unified Command
- c. Coordinate planning activated between multiple facilities.

C. Preparedness and Response Actions

1. Health and Medical Preparedness During Phases 1, 2, 3

- a. The Sioux Falls Health Department is educating health care providers about influenza pandemics and involves them in community pandemic response planning through the Health Care Coalition.
- b. The Sioux Falls Health Department is incorporating existing groups into pandemic planning efforts through the Health Care Coalition.
- c. Hospitals and health care organizations are developing pandemic influenza response plans addressing at a minimum medical surge capacity, triage, infection control, and communications and staffing issues.

- d. The Sioux Falls Health Department is facilitating development of protocols for reprioritizing Health Department functions during a pandemic and mobilizing staff to support maintenance of critical public health and medical needs.
- e. The Sioux Falls Health Department is providing regular briefings to Health Care Coalition members regarding the status of a novel virus and its potential for causing a pandemic.
- f. The South Dakota Department of Health will survey hospitals for the following items during a pandemic outbreak:
 - i. Number of available Intensive Care Unity and medical beds (adults and pediatric)
 - ii. Number of available emergency department beds (monitored and non-monitored)
 - iii. Number of patients and / or waiting times in emergency departments
 - iv. Number of patients waiting for inpatient beds (in emergency departments and clinics)
 - v. Number of hospitals on emergency department divert status
 - vi. Hospital and County Coroner morgue capacity
 - vii. Shortages of medical supplies or equipment
 - viii. Staff absenteeism at hospitals, clinics and morgues

2. Health and Medical Response During Phases 4, 5, 6

- a. The Public Health Director will facilitate activation of the City of Sioux Falls/ Minnehaha County Unified Command for the countywide health and medical response.
- b. The Sioux Falls Health Department will work with the Health Care Coalition to heighten preparedness activities and monitor the impact of a pandemic on health care facilities and systems
- c. The South Dakota Department of Health with the CDC will provide case identification criteria, laboratory testing and treatment protocols, and other case management resources to health care providers in the region.

- d. The South Dakota Department of Health with the CDC will coordinate with health care system members to assure appropriate use of antiviral medicines.
- e. The Sioux Falls Health Department and Health Care Coalition will develop and disseminate instructions for the care of patients who can be treated at home.
- f. The Sioux Falls Health Department with the Health Care Coalition will evaluate the need for and feasibility of establishing a system separate from hospital emergency departments for patient triage and clinical evaluation and will develop criteria for activating and deactivating such facilities. Specific tasks may include:
 - i. Hospitals will establish separate triage areas for 1) persons presenting with possible influenza, fever or respiratory disease, and 2) and all other persons accessing health care
 - ii. The Sioux Falls Health Department and Health Care Coalition will activate a communitywide medical triage system incorporating 24-hour telephone consulting nurse service and web-based information systems.
- g. The Health Care Coalition will develop standardized criteria for implementing the following strategies countywide
 - i. Canceling elective admissions and elective surgeries
 - ii. Implementing protocols to expand internal hospital bed capacity
 - iii. Activating alternate triage facilities to conduct triage of flu patients or to provide expanded bed capacity
 - iv. Implementing protocols for enhanced infection control in all medical facilities
 - v. Implement early discharge protocols for patients not requiring inpatient care
 - vi. Monitoring and reporting of hospital-acquired influenza infections
- h. Health Care Coalition members will identify and prioritize staff to receive antiviral medications and influenza vaccine according to the protocols established by the South Dakota Department of Health and CDC
- i. The South Dakota State Department of Health will direct the compliance of health care providers with protocols for use of antiviral medications and influenza vaccine

B. Public Health Services

- 1 During a pandemic, the Sioux Falls Health Department may suspend routine Department operations to provide staff for flu clinics, triage centers, and telephone triage services.
- 2 The Public Health Director will assess the need to reprioritize Department functions and will direct the mobilization of staff to meet emerging needs of the pandemic.
- 3 Sioux Falls Health Department staff with clinical training and licensure may be reassigned by the Medical Director to support the Department's critical clinical functions during a pandemic, or to assist in pandemic response activities
- 4 Public Health Services During Phases 1, 2, 3
 - a. All Sioux Falls Health Department Divisions are:
 - i. Participating in business continuity planning to identify mission critical systems and functions that must remain operational during a pandemic.
 - ii. Identifying Sioux Falls Health Department services and functions that can be suspended during a pandemic thereby freeing up staff members for reassignment.
 - iii. Participating in ongoing planning efforts to assess skills needed during public health emergencies and identify staff training needs to fill critical positions.
 - b. The Public Health Director and Medical Director are identifying sites and functions within the Department's clinical services that will remain operational during a pandemic and specify the minimum level of resources needed to remain operational.
 - c. The County Coroner is coordinating mass fatality planning efforts with hospitals and funeral homes through the Health Care Coalition.
6. Public Health Services During Phases 4, 5, 6
 - a. The Public Health Director will determine the need to suspend routine Department operations in order to reassign staff to critical duties. The timing of this decision will be coordinated with similar actions taken by other clinical facilities in the health care system.
 - b. Critical functions activated within Sioux Falls Health Department may include:

- i. Utilizing some or all Public Health clinics as “flu clinics” to triage, evaluate and/or treat influenza patients not requiring hospital care.
 - ii. Establishing and supporting a public call center that provides information and medical advice over the telephone, including information on how to access the health care system.
 - iii. Distributing vaccine to health care system facilities and activating mass vaccination clinics to vaccinate priority groups.
- c. The City of Sioux Falls/Minnehaha County Unified Command may activate the Mass Fatalities Plan. Activation of the plan will be coordinated with hospitals and funeral homes throughout the county.
- d. Based on the numbers of actual or anticipated fatalities during a pandemic, the County Coroner may implement emergency protocols regarding:
 - i. Identification and documentation of victims
 - ii. Activation and management of temporary temperature controlled holding facilities
 - iii. Release of remains to family members
 - iv. Temporary internment of mass fatalities
 - v. Cremation and burial of mass fatalities

X. MAINTENANCE OF ESSENTIAL SERVICES

1. One of the critical needs during a flu pandemic will be to maintain essential community services.
 - a. With the possibility that 25-35% of the workforce could be absent due to illness, it may be difficult to maintain adequate staffing for certain critical functions.
 - b. There is the possibility that services could be disrupted if significant numbers of public health, law enforcement, fire and emergency response, medical care, transportation, communications, and public utility personnel are unable to carry out critical functions due to illness.
2. Government agencies and private businesses, particularly those that provide essential services to the public, must develop and maintain continuity of operations plans and protocols that address the unique consequences of a pandemic.
3. Local emergency management agencies in Sioux Falls/Minnehaha County will lead continuity of government planning and preparedness within their jurisdictions with technical support provided by the Sioux Falls Health Department
4. Local emergency management agencies in Sioux Falls/Minnehaha County will participate and in and support logistical and non-medical infrastructure planning with hospital facilities within their jurisdictions
5. Sioux Falls/Minnehaha County will develop continuity of operations plans that address, at a minimum:
 - a. Line of Succession for the agency
 - b. Continuity of operations plans
 - c. Identification of mission essential services and priorities
 - d. Procedures for the reassignment of employees to support public health functions essential during a public health emergency
 - e. Redundancy of mission critical communication and information systems
 - f. Physical relocation of critical functions including the Emergency Operations Center
6. Maintenance of Essential Services During Phases 1, 2, 3
 - a. The City and County Emergency managers will work with all departments

to develop plans for maintaining essential departmental services during a pandemic.

- b. The Sioux Falls Health Department will continue to educate government agencies, non-profit organizations and businesses that provide essential community services about the need for continuity planning in advance of a pandemic.

7. Maintenance of Essential Services During Phases 4, 5, 6

- a. The City and County Emergency Managers will update its essential services plans and will request that its community partners update their plans.
- b. The Unified Command and Policy Makers will determine the appropriate time to implement the Department's continuity of operations plans and protocols and will advise community partners to implement their plans as needed.

XI. RECOVERY

- 1 Recovery from an influenza pandemic will begin when it is determined that adequate supplies, resources and response system capacity exist to manage ongoing activities without continued assistance from pandemic response systems.
- 2 In consultation with the Health Care Coalition and local elected leaders, the Unified Command will recommend specific actions to be taken to return the health care system and government functions to pre-event status.
- 3 The South Dakota Department of Health will assess the impact of the pandemic on the community's health as measured by morbidity and mortality and report findings to all response partners.
- 4 The State of South Dakota Department of Revenue staff will support partners in government and the health care and business communities in assessing the economic impact of the pandemic
- 5 The City of Sioux Falls/Minnehaha County Unified Command will conduct an after-action evaluation of the pandemic response. The evaluation will include recommendations for amendments to the Pandemic Influenza Response Plan.

City of Sioux Falls/Minnehaha County
Pandemic Influenza Response Plan

Appendix A

Priority groups for influenza vaccination during a pandemic are based on HHS Vaccine Priority Groups Recommendations as reflecting in the South Dakota State Pandemic Influenza Response Plan (March 9,2006).

Tier	Subtier	Population	SD Estimate
1	A	Vaccine and antiviral manufacturers and critical support	0
		Medical workers and public health workers who are involved in direct patient contact, other support services essentials for direct patient care, and vaccinator	23,423
	B	Persons \geq 65 years with 1 or more influenza high-risk conditions, not including essential hypertension	48,011
		Persons 6 months to 64 years with 2 or more influenza high-risk conditions, not including hypertension	18,202
		Persons 6 months or older with history of hospitalization for pneumonia or influenza or other influenza high-risk conditions in the past year	1,952
	C	Pregnant women	7,914
		Household contacts of children < 6 months	13,190
	D	Public Health emergency response workers critical to pandemic response	396
		Key government leaders	undetermined
	2	A	Healthy and \geq 65 YEARS
6 months to 64 years with 1 high risk condition			94,439
Healthy 6-23 month olds			14,773
B		Other public health emergency responders	791
		Public safety workers including police, 911 dispatchers, and correction facility staff	7,888
		Utility workers essential for maintenance of power, water and sewage systems	960
		Transportation workers transporting fuel, water, food and medical supplies as well as public ground transportation	10,024
Telecommunications/IT for essential network operations and maintenance	2,849		
3		Other key government health decision-makers	Undetermined
		Funeral directors/embalmers	164
4		Healthy persons 2-64 years not included in above categories	472,988

City of Sioux Falls/Minnehaha County
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Appendix B

Priority groups for receiving antiviral medications during a pandemic are based on HHS Vaccine Priority Groups Recommendations as reflecting in the South Dakota State Pandemic Influenza Response Plan (March 9,2006).

Tier	Group	Strategy	SD Estimate
1	Patients admitted to hospitals	Treatment	26,380
2	Healthcare workers (HCW) with direct patient contact and EMS providers	Treatment	24,269
3	Highest risk outpatients – immunocompromised persons and pregnant women	Treatment	6,595
4	Pandemic health responders (public health, vaccinators, vaccine and antiviral manufacturers), public safety (police, fire, corrections) and government decision-makers	Treatment	8,705
5	Increased risk outpatients – young children 12-23 months, persons \geq 65 years and persons with underlying medical conditions	Treatment	225,546
6	Outbreak response in nursing homes and other residential settings	Post-exposure prophylaxis	Undetermined
7	HCWs in emergency departments, intensive care units, dialysis centers and EMS providers	Prophylaxis	3,166
8	Pandemic societal responders (e.g., critical infrastructure groups as defined in the vaccine priorities) and HCWs without direct patient contact	Treatment	26,907
9	Other outpatients	Treatment	474,834
10	Highest risk outpatients	Prophylaxis	6,595
11	Other HCWs with direct patient contacts	Prophylaxis	21,104

Priority groups will need to be reassessed and possibly altered to coordinate with CDC priority groups and as epidemiologic data on the specific pandemic virus becomes available to ensure consistency with the needs of South Dakota. Priority group assignments will meet the overall goals of the response plan, which include reduction of mortality and morbidity, limitation of social disruption, maintenance of health care systems, maintaining integrity of social infrastructure and limiting economic losses.

City of Sioux Falls/Minnehaha County
Pandemic Influenza Response Plan

Appendix C
Pandemic Response Checklist

Public Health Responsibilities During a Pandemic – All Phases

1. Lead a countywide health education campaign for pandemic response.
2. Coordinate the community's emergency public health response through Emergency Support Function 8 (Health and Medical Services), and the Regional Disaster Plan
3. Serve as the lead agency in Sioux Falls/Minnehaha County Unified Command for risk communications messaging and public education. The Health Care Coalition will coordinate with Unified Command to ensure consistency of communications and messaging regarding pandemic influenza.
4. Provide effective communications to the public, the media, elected officials, health care providers, business and community leaders throughout public health emergencies
5. Collaborate with the State Department of Health to conduct county-wide surveillance to track the spread of the human disease and its impact on the community.
6. Provide guidance to health care system partners on clinical management and infection control
7. Coordinate planning for and implementation of disease containment strategies and authorities
8. Communicate and coordinate with health system partners through the Health Care Coalition to coordinate and manage health care system resources and information
9. Collaborate with the State Department of Health to develop and implement protocols for prioritizing the use of limited supplies of influenza vaccine and antiviral medicines
10. Initiate and direct mass vaccination efforts
11. Lead efforts to strengthen support, outreach and training for vulnerable populations in the City of Sioux Falls and Minnehaha County

	Specific Responsibilities within a Pandemic Response
Public Health Director	<p>Communicate and coordinate directly with City/County Policy Makers.</p> <p>Coordinate directly with Health Care Coalition partners and make decisions regarding strategies for reallocating resources and restructuring countywide health system operations in response to a pandemic.</p> <p>Authorize and communicate public health directives regarding social distancing strategies and other protective actions to elected leaders, the business community, schools, the health care coalition and other partners.</p> <p>Assign responsibilities to Sioux Falls Health Department Divisions for planning and responding to the pandemic.</p> <p>Direct the Sioux Falls Health Department medical response during a pandemic.</p> <p>Direct isolation and quarantine of individuals and groups, as needed, based on recommendations from the South Dakota Department of Health.</p> <p>Assess the need to reprioritize Department functions and direct the mobilization of staff to meet emerging needs of the pandemic.</p> <p>Coordinate activation and management of the Sioux Falls Health Department Emergency Operations Center.</p> <p>Advise City of Sioux Falls/Minnehaha County Unified Command regarding the potential social and economic impacts of social distancing measures, and the extent to which implementation of such measures is feasible.</p> <p>Coordinate department-wide business continuity efforts specific to the potential impacts of a pandemic.</p> <p>Facilitate pandemic planning and response activities with countywide EMS providers and 911 dispatch centers.</p> <p>Coordinate protocols for maintaining critical EMS response capability during a pandemic generating high call volumes and reducing available EMS resources.</p> <p>Identify mission critical functions that must be maintained during all hazards including a pandemic.</p>
City of Sioux Falls Health Department	<p>Participate in planning activities focused on development of influenza diagnosis and treatment clinics.</p> <p>Lead and coordinate all mass vaccination response activities.</p> <p>Coordinate efforts with community partners to manage a client care call center.</p>

	<p>Develop infection control plans, with technical assistance from the State of South Dakota Department of Health, for the City of Sioux Falls clinic sites to protect staff and clients.</p> <p>Coordinate countywide pandemic planning, education and outreach efforts with homeless service agencies.</p> <p>Make clinical decisions regarding individual and group isolation and quarantine.</p> <p>Work with the City/County PIO to develop and disseminate risk communications messages to the public.</p> <p>Provide recommendations to the City of Sioux Falls/Minnehaha County Unified Command regarding measures to sustain the functionality of the local health care system.</p> <p>Advise the Unified Command regarding the medical need for and benefit of social distancing measures.</p> <p>Coordinate countywide pandemic planning, education and outreach efforts with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School systems • Business community • Community based organizations <p>Coordinate with economic development agencies and chambers of commerce regarding the economic consequences of a pandemic.</p> <p>Coordinate pandemic planning and preparedness efforts for the City of Sioux Falls in conjunction with local, state and federal response partners.</p> <p>Participate in trainings, drills and evaluated exercises to enhance readiness to respond to a pandemic.</p> <p>Coordinate planning and response activities with hospitals and community health clinics.</p> <p>Identify staff that can be cross trained to perform emergency response functions.</p>
<p>Health Department Public Information Officer (PIO)</p>	<p>Provide accurate, timely information to the public regarding preparations for a pandemic, the impacts of the outbreak and local response actions.</p> <p>Educate the public on how they can protect themselves from becoming infected and infecting others.</p> <p>Activate and direct the management of public information call centers focused on providing health information to the public.</p>

County Coroner	<p>Lead mass fatality planning and response efforts.</p> <p>Coordinate with and support hospitals regarding mass fatalities planning and response.</p> <p>Incorporate funeral home directors into planning efforts for pandemic response.</p> <p>In conjunction with community partners, coordinate planning and development of victim assistance centers.</p> <p>Activate mass fatalities plans when necessary.</p>
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Function	Interpandemic and Early Alert Period Phases 1 – 2 – 3	Late Alert and Pandemic Period Phases 4 – 5 – 6
World Health Organization (WHO) Phase Definitions	<p>Phase 1 – No new influenza virus subtypes detected in humans. An influenza virus subtype that has caused human infection may be present in animals. If present in animals, the risk of human infection or disease is considered low.</p> <p>Phase 2 – No new influenza virus subtypes detected in humans. However, a circulating animal influenza virus subtype poses substantial risk of human disease.</p> <p>Phase 3 – Human infection(s) are occurring with a new subtype, but no human-to-human spread, or at most rare instances of spread to a close contact.</p>	<p>Phase 4 – Small cluster(s) of human infection with limited human-to-human transmission but spread is highly localized suggesting that the virus is not well adapted to humans.</p> <p>Phase 5 – Larger cluster(s) of human infection but human-to-human spread is localized, suggesting that the virus is becoming increasingly better adapted to humans, but may not yet be fully transmissible (substantial pandemic risk).</p> <p>Phase 6 – Pandemic is declared. Increased and sustained transmission in the general population.</p>
Public Health Goals	<p>Strengthen influenza pandemic preparedness at all levels. Closely monitor human and animal surveillance data.</p> <p>Minimize the risk of transmission of animal influenza virus to humans; detect and report such transmission rapidly if it occurs.</p>	<p>Ensure rapid characterization of the new virus subtype and early detection, notification and response to additional cases.</p> <p>Contain the new virus within limited foci or delay spread to gain time to implement preparedness measures, including vaccine development.</p> <p>Maximize efforts to contain or delay spread to possibly avert a pandemic, and to gain time to implement response measures.</p> <p>Implement response measures including social distancing to minimize pandemic impacts</p>
Direction and Control	<p>The Sioux Falls Health Department will lead health system preparedness efforts and countywide education efforts for pandemic response.</p> <p>The Sioux Falls Health Department will communicate with health system partners through the Health Care Coalition to coordinate management of health care system resources and information.</p> <p>The Sioux Falls Health Department will assess the viability of social distancing measures and establish criteria for their use.</p>	<p>Assess whether to activate the Pandemic Influenza Response Plan and ESF 8 to coordinate the health care system response.</p> <p>Provide regular briefings to the City and County policymakers and other local elected officials, and regional response partners. Briefings will address the nature of the disease, its communicability and virulence, availability of vaccines and antivirals, actions that are being taken to minimize the impact, actions that response partners should implement to protect critical functions, and health information being shared with the public and health care providers.</p>

Function	Interpandemic and Early Alert Period Phases 1 – 2 – 3	Late Alert and Pandemic Period Phases 4 – 5 – 6
Communications Public Health Goals Direction and Control	<p>Assess the information needs of health care providers.</p> <p>Assess the information needs of the general public.</p> <p>Identify any logistical constraints to effective communications, such as communications staffing and equipment needs, and public information call center staffing and capacity.</p> <p>Intensify public education efforts about influenza pandemics, animal influenza and steps that can be taken to reduce exposure to infection. Information may be disseminated via web site postings, newspaper editorials, flyers and billboards, television and radio broadcasts.</p> <p>Coordinate with the South Dakota Department of Health to develop common health messages and education materials.</p> <p>Educate providers, public officials, businesses and emergency responders about influenza pandemics and steps they should take to plan for pandemic outbreaks.</p> <p>The Public Health Director will convene appropriate internal sections and Divisions to develop a communications strategy for vulnerable populations including identifying appropriate community partners for reaching and educating diverse communities such as limited English speaking and homeless citizens.</p>	<p>The City of Sioux Falls/Minnehaha County Unified Command will evaluate the need to establish a Joint Information Center (JIC) in conjunction with appropriate health system and response partners. A JIC will be activated when the City of Sioux Falls/Minnehaha County Unified Command deems it necessary based on specific characteristics of the pandemic.</p> <p>The City of Sioux Falls/Minnehaha County Unified Command will evaluate the need to establish a public information call center to respond to public inquiries.</p> <p>The City/County PIO will work with the Health Care Coalition and the Health Department to develop public information messages related to health care delivery and other resources (triage centers, call centers, etc).</p> <p>The City/County PIO will initiate regular communication briefings with hospital emergency rooms, infection control practitioners, infectious disease specialists, and community providers as necessary and in collaboration with the Health Care Coalition. The Section will also regularly communicate with the South Dakota Department of Health.</p> <p>The City of Sioux Falls/Minnehaha County Unified Command will conduct regular briefings with key response partners; to inform EOC staff, business leaders, community based organizations, first response agencies and critical infrastructure agencies on the status of the pandemic and local response actions.</p> <p>As the pandemic expands, the City/County PIO will provide daily updates on the pandemic and will organize regular media briefings.</p> <p>The City/County PIO will keep the public informed about steps that should be taken to protect against infection, treatment options for individuals who are infected, the status of the spread of the outbreak in the community, and the disease control and containment strategies that are being implemented.</p>

Function	Interpandemic and Early Alert Period Phases 1 – 2 – 3	Late Alert and Pandemic Period Phases 4 – 5 – 6
Public Education	The City of Sioux Falls Health department will lead efforts to strengthen support, outreach and training for vulnerable populations.	<p>Dissemination of printed and web-based information in multiple languages.</p> <p>Frequent use of radio, television and print media. Coordination with other health care providers and care-givers to ensure consistent messaging.</p> <p>Implementation of a public information call center.</p>
Vaccine Management	The Sioux Falls Health Department will develop plans for administration of vaccine to priority groups, and eventually the entire county population, including activation of mass vaccination clinics based on CDC and South Dakota Department of Health Recommendations.	The City of Sioux Falls Health Department will distribute and administer vaccine as soon as possible after receipt according to local priorities and CDC guidelines, including activation of mass vaccination plans as appropriate.
Antiviral Medication Management	<p>The Sioux Falls Health Department will develop plans for dispensing of antiviral medications to priority groups, and eventually the entire county population, including activation of points of dispensing sites based on CDC and South Dakota Department of Health Recommendations.</p> <p>The Sioux Falls Health Department will meet with appropriate health care system partners and elected leaders to form strategies for acquiring antiviral medications.</p> <p>The Sioux Falls Health Department will convene a planning team with appropriate members of the Health Care Coalition and Emergency Management to develop an antiviral medication distribution plan.</p>	<p>The Sioux Falls Health Department will ensure that staff and resources are in place to distribute antiviral medications, as supplies allow.</p> <p>The Sioux Falls Health Department will activate its plans for requesting medications from the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS).</p>

Function	Interpandemic and Early Alert Period Phases 1 – 2 – 3	Late Alert and Pandemic Period Phases 4 – 5 – 6
Isolation and Quarantine	The Sioux Falls Health Department will coordinate planning efforts for isolation and quarantine with the South Dakota State Department of Health following CDC guidelines.	<p>The Sioux Falls Health Department will coordinate with health care providers and hospitals to ensure that influenza patients are isolated in appropriate facilities based on their medical condition (homes, hospital, and alternate care facility).</p> <p>The Sioux Falls Health Department will collaborate with the South Dakota Department of Health to enforce protocols for quarantine of close contacts of persons infected with a potential pandemic strain.</p>
Social Distancing Strategies	<p>The Sioux Falls Health Department will educate elected officials, government leaders, school officials, response partners, homeless services agencies, businesses, the media and the public regarding the consequences of pandemics, the use of social distancing strategies, the associated impacts they cause and the process for implementing these measures.</p> <p>The Public Health Director will confirm the decision making process and criteria for recommending social distancing strategies with the Mayor of Sioux Falls and other policy makers.</p> <p>The Sioux Falls Health Department will confirm coordination processes with neighboring counties, DOH and HHS regarding how social distancing measures will be enacted.</p>	<p>The Public Health Director will coordinate with elected officials regarding decision making and implementation of social distancing strategies that are commensurate with the severity of illness and societal impact of the pandemic.</p> <p>Specific, city/county-wide strategies that may be identified by the Public Health Director include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage government agencies and the private sector to implement emergency staffing plans to maintain critical business functions while maximizing the use of telecommuting, flex schedules, and alternate work site options. • Recommend that the public use public transit only for essential travel. • Advise residents to defer non-essential travel to other areas of the country and the world affected by pandemic influenza outbreaks. • Suspend public events where large numbers of people congregate including sporting events, concerts, and parades • Close public and private schools, and large childcare centers • Limit social interactions at libraries, colleges and universities • Close churches, theaters, community centers and other places where large groups gather • Suspend government functions not involved in pandemic response or maintaining critical continuity functions

Function	Interpandemic and Early Alert Period Phases 1 – 2 – 3	Late Alert and Pandemic Period Phases 4 – 5 – 6
Social Distancing Strategies		The Public Health Director will monitor the effectiveness of social distancing strategies in controlling the spread of disease and will advise appropriate decision-makers when social distancing strategies should be relaxed or ended
Health and Medical Response	<p>The Sioux Falls Health Department will educate health care providers about influenza pandemics and involve them in community pandemic response planning through the Health Care Coalition.</p> <p>The Sioux Falls Health Department will incorporate existing groups, such as the Region 3 Hospital Emergency Preparedness Committee, into pandemic planning efforts through the Health Care Coalition.</p> <p>Hospitals and health care organizations will develop pandemic influenza response plans addressing at a minimum medical surge capacity, triage, infection control, communication and staffing issues.</p> <p>The Sioux Falls Health Department will facilitate development of protocols for reprioritizing Health Department functions during a pandemic and mobilizing staff to support maintenance of critical public health and medical needs.</p> <p>The Sioux Falls Health Department will provide regular briefings to Health Care Coalition members regarding the status of a novel virus and its potential for causing a pandemic.</p>	<p>The Sioux Falls Health Department will work with the Health Care Coalition to heighten preparedness activities and monitor the impact of a pandemic on health care facilities and systems.</p> <p>The Sioux Falls Health Department in collaboration with the SD State Department of Health will provide case identification criteria, laboratory testing and treatment protocols, and other case management resources to health care providers in the region.</p> <p>The Sioux Falls Health Department in collaboration with the SD State Department of Health will coordinate with health care system members to assure appropriate use of antiviral medicines.</p> <p>The Sioux Falls Health Department in collaboration with the SD State Department of Health and the County Medical Director and the Health Care Coalition will develop and disseminate instructions for the care of patients who can be treated at home.</p>

Function	Interpandemic and Early Alert Period Phases 1 – 2 – 3	Late Alert and Pandemic Period Phases 4 – 5 – 6
Health and Medical Response	<p>The Sioux Falls Health Department will coordinate with the Region 3 Hospital Emergency Preparedness Committee and the SD State Department of Health to ensure systems are in place to track the following items during a pandemic outbreak:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of available Intensive Care Unit and medical beds (adults and pediatrics) • Number of available emergency department beds (monitored and non-monitored) • Number of patients and / or waiting times in emergency departments • Number of patients waiting for inpatient beds (in emergency departments and clinics) • Number of hospitals on emergency department divert status • Hospital and Medical Examiner morgue capacity • Shortages of medical supplies or equipment • Staff absenteeism at hospitals, clinics and morgues 	<p>The Health Care Coalition will evaluate the need for and feasibility of establishing a system separate from hospital emergency departments for patient triage and clinical evaluation. The Coalition will develop criteria for activating and deactivating such facilities. Specific tasks will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hospitals will establish separate triage areas for 1) persons presenting with possible influenza, fever or respiratory disease, and 2) persons at high risk for severe complications such as pregnant women and immuno-compromised persons. • The Health Care Coalition will, through coordination with the Sioux Falls Health Department to identify specific facilities in different geographic areas within Minnehaha County to serve as “flu clinics”. • The Sioux Falls Health Department will work through the Health Care Coalition to establish and promote a 24-hour telephone consulting nurse service to provide information and advice to ill persons regarding illness and accessing health care <p>The Health Care Coalition will develop standardized criteria for implementing the following strategies countywide, and will recommend implementation of any or all of these strategies to the Sioux Falls Health Department when pandemic conditions warrant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canceling elective admissions and elective surgeries • Requiring all hospitals in the county to receive and treat any patient whose condition warrants hospitalization, regardless of medical insurance coverage. • Implementing protocols to expand internal hospital bed capacity. • Activating alternate care facilities to conduct triage of flu patients or to provide expanded bed capacity. • Implementing early discharge protocols for patients not requiring inpatient care.

Function	Interpandemic and Early Alert Period Phases 1 – 2 – 3	Late Alert and Pandemic Period Phases 4 – 5 – 6
Health and Medical Response		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementing protocols for enhanced infection control in all medical facilities. • Monitoring and reporting of hospital-acquired influenza infections. <p>Health Care Coalition members will identify and prioritize staff to receive antiviral medications and influenza vaccine according to the protocols established by the South Dakota State Department of Health in collaboration with the CDC.</p> <p>Through a Public Health Order, the Director of Public Health, in collaboration with the South Dakota State Department of Health may establish protocols for use of antiviral medications and influenza vaccine.</p> <p>The logistics branch of the City of Sioux Falls/Minnehaha County Unified Command will coordinate with and support the Health Care Coalition in acquiring additional medical supplies and equipment in support of medical facilities.</p> <p>Requests for State and Federal resource support, including resources from the Strategic National Stockpile will be managed by the Sioux Falls Health Department through the City of Sioux Falls/.Minnehaha County Unified Command.</p>
Mass Fatalities Management	The Minnehaha County Coroner's office will coordinate mass fatality planning efforts with hospitals and funeral homes.	<p>The City of Sioux Falls/Minnehaha County Unified Command may activate the County Mass Fatality Plan. Activation of the plan will be coordinated with the hospitals and funeral homes throughout the county.</p> <p>Based on the numbers of actual or anticipated fatalities during a pandemic, the Minnehaha County Coroner's office may implement emergency protocols regarding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification and documentation of victims • Activation and management of temporary temperature controlled holding facilities • Release of remains to family members • Temporary internment of mass fatalities • Cremation and burial of mass fatalities

Function	Interpandemic and Early Alert Period Phases 1 – 2 – 3	Late Alert and Pandemic Period Phases 4 – 5 – 6
Maintenance of Essential Services	<p>The Sioux Falls Health Department will work with all divisions and sections in Health Department to develop plans for maintaining essential departmental services during a pandemic.</p> <p>The Sioux Falls Health Department will educate government agencies, non-profit organizations and businesses that provide essential community services about the need for continuity planning in advance of a pandemic.</p>	<p>The Sioux Falls Health Department will update its essential services plans and will request that its community partners update their plans.</p> <p>The Public Health Director will determine the appropriate time to implement the Department's continuity of operations plans and protocols and will advise community partners to implement their plans as needed</p>
Mitigation	<p>Planning, exercising, evaluating and revising the Pandemic Influenza Response Plan.</p> <p>Training and equipping Sioux Falls Health Department staff to assure competencies and capacities needed to respond to a pandemic outbreak.</p> <p>Developing strategic partnerships and facilitating capacity building with local hospitals, non-hospital based health care providers and agencies, other health care system stakeholders, and local, state and federal response agencies and their staff.</p> <p>Educating response partners, the media and public about the consequences of influenza pandemics and recommended preparedness measures.</p> <p>Informing and updating local elected officials about the potential impacts of an influenza pandemic on essential services and infrastructure in Minnehaha County.</p> <p>Stockpiling necessary medications and equipment that will be needed to respond to an influenza pandemic</p>	

Function	Interpandemic and Early Alert Period Phases 1 – 2 – 3	Late Alert and Pandemic Period Phases 4 – 5 – 6
Recovery	<p>Post-Phase 6 -> Interpandemic Phase 1</p> <p>Recovery from an influenza pandemic will begin when it is determined that adequate supplies, resources and response system capacity exist to manage ongoing activities without continued assistance from pandemic response systems.</p> <p>In consultation with the Health Care Coalition and local elected leaders, the Director of Public Health will recommend specific actions to be taken to return the health care system and government functions to pre-event status.</p> <p>The Sioux Falls Health Department will assess the impact of the pandemic on the community's health as measured by morbidity and mortality and report findings to all response partners.</p> <p>The City of Sioux Falls/Minnehaha County Unified command will support partners in Minnehaha County government and the health care and business communities in assessing the economic impact of the pandemic.</p> <p>The City of Sioux Falls/Minnehaha County Unified Command will conduct an after-action evaluation of the pandemic response. The evaluation will include recommendations for amendments to the Pandemic Influenza Response Plan.</p>	

City of Sioux Falls/Minnehaha County
Pandemic Influenza Response Plan

Appendix D-1

Protective measures to Reduce the Spread of Pandemic Influenza							
		Pandemic Phase					
		Phase 1-3	Phase 4	Phase 5	Phase 6		
Possible Protective Measures	Public Information and education campaign						
	Individual isolation of influenza cases						
	Quarantine close contacts of influenza cases						
	Recommend the public defer travel to countries impacted by pandemic						
	Close all public and private schools, licensed day care centers						
	Limit social interactions at libraries, colleges and universities						
	Direct public and private sector to implement pandemic emergency staffing plans						
	Suspend government functions not dedicated to pandemic response of critical continuity						
	Suspend large public gatherings (sports events, concerts)						
	Close theaters and other places where crowds gather						
					Implement protective measure		
					Consider implementing protective measure		

City of Sioux Falls/Minnehaha County
Pandemic Influenza Response Plan

Appendix D-2

Phase	Level of Influenza Activity In the City of Sioux Falls	<u>Possible</u> Response Actions
3	Novel influenza virus infecting humans abroad; no human-to-human transmission; no cases in the U.S.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Preparedness planning with partners ○ Business continuity planning ○ Educate response partners ○ Initiate public education campaign ○ Stockpile antiviral medications and essential supplies
4-A	Limited human-to-human transmission of novel influenza virus abroad: small numbers of local cases may begin appearing, however all are either imported or have clear epidemiologic links to other cases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Isolation of all cases ○ Quarantine of close contacts ○ Recommend Sioux Falls residents defer travel to countries or areas of the U.S. impacted by the novel virus as per CDC guidance
4-B	Limited human-to human transmission of novel influenza virus within the City of Sioux Falls; a small number of cases appear without clear epidemiological links to other cases and/or occurrence of influenza among close contacts	<p>In addition to the above</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Recommend Sioux Falls residents avoid close contact with other persons to the extent possible by curtailing travel and non-essential contact with other person
5-A	Sustained novel influenza virus transmission in Sioux Falls with a large number of cases identified	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Isolation of all cases ○ Close public and private schools (K-12) and licensed daycares ○ Limit social interaction at colleges, universities and libraries ○ Direct government and businesses to implement emergency staffing plans
5-B	Rate of infection continues to increase following school and child care center closures and social distancing in government agencies and businesses	<p>In addition to the above</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Close theaters, stadiums, community centers ○ Cancel all large public gatherings ○ Limit social interactions at houses of worship
6	Sustained novel influenza activity in Sioux Falls with widespread countywide impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Consider suspending government functions not dedicated to pandemic response or critical continuity

City of Sioux Falls/Minnehaha County
Pandemic Influenza Response Plan

Appendix D-3

Overview

A key component of local and state influenza pandemic response plans is an assessment of social distancing measures, and the authorities and circumstances under which they may be implemented within a specific jurisdiction. Nearly all social distancing measures will have economic and/or social impacts on neighboring jurisdictions. Therefore, influenza pandemic response plans must include protocols that describe how decisions regarding the implementation of social distancing measures will be:

- Made locally
- Coordinated regionally, and
- Communicated to appropriate stakeholders

Purpose

The purpose of this protocol is to provide a decision tool for use across Minnehaha County by multiple levels of government during an influenza pandemic. This protocol will assist local decision makers with efficiently notifying key partners in the region, coordinating the timing and scope of social distancing measures to be implemented, and providing a mechanism to facilitate consensus. Specific components addressed within the protocol include:

- Types of social distancing measures to be considered for possible implementation
- Assessment of the social and economic impacts of each social distancing measure
- Phased and/or simultaneous implementation of specific social distancing measures
- Primary stakeholders involved in discussing the impacts and implementation of each social distancing measure
- Coordinating and communicating decisions to all key stakeholders regarding the implementation of social distancing measure within a specific jurisdiction

Assumptions

Implementation of this protocol is based, in part, on one or more of the following planning assumptions:

- Pandemic influenza strain is spreading from person to person in several locations around the world;
- The WHO had declared Global Pandemic Phase 5 or 6;
- Cases of pandemic influenza are present within Minnehaha County
- Local elected officials and the Governor have proclaimed a State of Emergency, or will do so concurrent with the decision to implement social distancing measures

Types of Social Distancing Measures to be Addressed

1. Direct government agencies to implement pandemic emergency staffing plans (telecommuting, flex shifting) and implement social distancing within facilities.

All local government agencies would activate telecommuting and flex shifting plans to increase social distancing within government facilities and reduce crowding on public transportation systems. State and Federal officials would direct State and Federal agencies, respectively, to implement telecommuting and flex shifting plans concurrent with local agencies. Plans may be phased to allow for escalation in conjunction with the severity of the incident.

2. Direct private sector to implement pandemic emergency staffing plans (telecommuting, flex shifting) and implement social distancing within facilities.

All private sector and non-profit organizations within a jurisdiction would activate telecommuting and flex shifting plans to increase social distancing within their facilities and reduce crowding on public transportation systems. Plans may be phased to allow for escalation in conjunction with the severity of the incident.

3. Close all public and private schools.

All K-12 school facilities within a jurisdiction would be closed. Schools would be encouraged to incorporate web based learning and public access TV media into class curricula, and would encourage home schooling. Schools would provide parents and students with strong recommendations to avoid gathering with friends in other locations.

4. Minimize social interaction at all public and private colleges and universities.

All public and private college and university facilities would implement measures to minimize social interaction among students and faculty.

Measures would include but not be limited to suspending classes, enhancing web-based learning, and implementing telecommuting and flex shifting among staff, canceling all recreational activities (intramurals), closing student unions, closing student cafeterias, and canceling all large meetings and public gatherings.

5. Close all licensed child care centers.

All licensed child care centers within the county would be closed.

6. Implement measures to increase social distancing at all libraries.

All library facilities would modify operation to restrict the public from gathering in the facility. The public would only be allowed to enter a library facility to pick up materials requested / reserved on line or via telephone.

7. Limit activities at all houses of worship.

All large public gatherings at churches, synagogues, mosques, temples and other religious facilities would be suspended.

8. Close all community centers.

All public, private, and non-profit facilities used for community gatherings would be closed.

9. Close all theaters.

All theaters (film and stage), concert halls, and opera houses would be closed.

10. Suspend large gatherings (sports events, concerts, parades).

All indoor and outdoor events that cater to large crowds such as sporting events, parades, concerts, and festivals would be suspended.

11. Suspend government functions not dedicated to pandemic response or associated with continuity of critical services.

All government activities and personnel will be focused on maintaining critical services and responding to the pandemic. Non-critical functions may be suspended in order to redirect staff to backfill employees performing critical tasks. This may be implemented in an escalating manner to match the severity of the incident.

Coordination of Social Distancing Decisions

This protocol incorporated a series of decision points. The decisions process starts with the recognition of pandemic influenza infection within the local community. The process proceeds with the decision made by local officials to implement one or more social distancing measures within the jurisdiction, coordinated among different levels of government, and communicated to all appropriate stakeholders. The key steps in the process are as follows:

- Illness reports and surveillance data, or information from national public health officials (CDC), lead the City of Sioux Falls/Minnehaha County to determine that social distancing actions may be needed (refer to Appendix F, threshold Determinants for the Use of Social distancing Measures)
- The City of Sioux Falls/Minnehaha County notifies the South Dakota State Department of Health
- By conference call, the City of Sioux Falls/Minnehaha County and the South Dakota State Department of Health discuss epidemiological data, social distancing activities occurring nationwide and internationally, social distancing measures under consideration in the City of Sioux Falls/Minnehaha County area and the duration of these measures.
- Through coordination of the City/County EOC and the State EOC, public information officers will coordinate timing and content of public messaging.

Alert and Notification

This protocol will be activated when it is determined that social distancing measures may need to be implemented within 72 hours. The Director of the City of Sioux Falls Department of health will coordinate a conference call with the South Dakota State Department of Health. Attendees on this coordinated conference call should include:

- City of Sioux Falls Public Health Director
- City/County Public Information Officers
- State Secretary of Health
- State Epidemiologist
- Director of the State Public Health Laboratory
- State Public Health Preparedness Director
- State Public Information officer

Social Distancing Discussion

The City of Sioux Falls Health Department will facilitate the conference call discussion with the parties listed above. All parties will discuss:

1. Current disease surveillance data within the City of Sioux Falls/Minnehaha County and at the State level

2. Available information and guidance regarding the efficacy and adverse impacts of social distancing measures already in effect nationally and internationally
3. Specific social distancing measures under consideration and the criteria for the timing and duration of implementation
4. Implementation of social distancing measures and emergency staffing plans within State and Federal agency facilities concurrent with local decisions
5. Whether State or Federal authorities will be invoked regarding any or all social distancing measures within the State
6. Timing of notifications to response partners and the public
7. Establishing consistency regarding the timing and public announcement of social distancing measures between all local jurisdictions

Implementation

Social distancing measures will be implemented in a phased manner. Each action step listed below describes a series of measures that would be implemented concurrently. Action steps would be taken in sequential order based on the escalating severity of the event.

Action Step #1

- Close all public and private schools, licensed child care centers
- Increase social distancing at all libraries and public and private colleges and universities
- Direct government agencies to implement pandemic emergency staffing plans (telecommuting, flex shifting).
- Direct private sector to implement pandemic emergency staffing plans (telecommuting, flex shifting).

Rationale: soon after a severe influenza pandemic arrives in the local area, all public and private schools (K-12) and day care centers would likely be closed to decrease social interaction and slow the spread of the disease throughout the community. This action step would be implemented when very few cases have been reported in the local area. Libraries, colleges and universities would implement measures as directed by local health officials. Concurrent with this action, emergency staffing plans for public and private sector agencies and universities must be activated to enable a significant

portion of the workforce to remain functional while caring for children at home.

Action Step #2

- Limit activities at all houses of worship
- Close all community centers
- Close all theaters
- Suspend large gatherings (sports events, concerts, parades)

Rationale: measures within action step #2 reflect limitations on recreational/spiritual public gatherings in an effort to further contain the spread of disease throughout the local community. Action step #2 would likely be implemented following action step #1, and would occur if infection rates continued to rise significantly following the closure of schools and implementation of emergency staffing plans. Delaying the implementation of action step #2 may be appropriate during an influenza pandemic to ensure that available surveillance data warrant increase social distancing response. The approach will also help minimize social disruption and economic loss in the community.

Action Step #3

- Suspend government function not dedicated to pandemic response or associated with continuity of critical services

Rationale: action step #3 focuses on further limiting exposure of the public by fully implementing business continuity plans for public and private sector in a manner consistent with a worst-case influenza pandemic event.

City of Sioux Falls/Minnehaha County
 Pandemic Influenza Response Plan

Appendix E

Decision Making for Social Distancing Measures, Risk Communication and Public Education					
	Decision Makers				Notes
	Local Health Officer	Mayor /Mayors	County Commissioners		
Direction and structuring of health care system resources and operations					<i>Managed through the EOC</i>
Individual isolation of influenza cases					<i>Managed through the EOC</i>
Quarantine close contacts of influenza cases					<i>Managed through the EOC</i>
Risk Communications messaging to response partners, the public and the media					<i>Conducted through a Joint Information Center</i>
Public education campaign on flu prevention					<i>Led by the Public Health</i>
Recommend the public defer travel to countries impacted by pandemic					<i>LHO will issue a public health recommendation that will be supported by all elected leaders</i>
Direct public and private sector to implement pandemic emergency staffing plans					<i>LHO will issue a public health recommendation that will be supported by all elected leaders</i>
Close all public and private schools, and licensed child care centers					<i>Decisions are made by the LHO and coordinated with all parties</i>
Limit social interaction at libraries, colleges and universities					<i>Decisions are made by the LHO and coordinated with all parties</i>
Close theaters, stadiums and other places where crowds gather					<i>Decisions are made under the city wide authority of the LHO and Mayor and all coordinating parties</i>
Suspend large gatherings (religious services, sports events, concerts)					<i>Decisions are made under the city wide authority of the LHO and Mayor and all coordinating parties</i>
Suspend government functions not dedicated to pandemic response or critical continuity.					<i>Decisions are made jointly by all parties on a citywide basis</i>
	Lead Decision Maker: Exercises the legal authorities of their position				
	Support Decision Maker: Publicly acknowledges and supports the decision May jointly exercise their legal authority in conjunction with the Lead Decision Maker.				
	Joint Decision Makers: Decisions are made and communicated concurrently by all involved				

Protective Measures

City of Sioux Falls/Minnehaha County
Pandemic Influenza Response Plan

Appendix F

Threshold Determinants for the Use of Social Distancing Measures

Parameters	Disease-Related Factors Considered When Making Social Distancing Decisions
Influenza Cases	<p>Sioux Falls/Minnehaha County</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total number of cases (absoluter or estimated) • Rate of increase in number of cases (per day, per week) • Percentage of cases with no identified epidemiologic link • Population affected including number and percent of cases among: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Children ➢ Adults between 18-40 ➢ Elderly ➢ Persons with underlying medical conditions ➢ Other risk factor • Severity of illness including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Number of cases hospitalized ➢ Number of fatalities and percentage of hospitalized cases resulting in fatality <p>Outside Sioux Falls/Minnehaha County</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Severity of illness, populations affected, and the rate of spread in other communities (globally, nationally and statewide)
Surveillance and Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of contacts under active surveillance by the South Dakota State Department of Health • Ability to rapidly trace contacts (number of contacts not traced or interviewed) • Absenteeism rated in schools, government agencies and businesses
Response Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendations made by the CDC and/or the South Dakota Department of Health to implement specific social distancing measures • Degree to which neighboring states have implemented social distancing measures • Information regarding the effectiveness of social distancing measures in other communities