

What should you be doing?

To prepare at home:

- Make it a habit to fill any prescriptions several days before you run out.
- Help elderly neighbors and neighbors with disabilities develop their emergency plans. In our state, people have managed through difficult times because neighbors helped neighbors.
- In a pandemic, many people could be very sick at the same time. Worksites, schools and day care centers may close. Think about how you will manage if everyday life is severely disrupted.
- Stay up to date on all your immunizations, especially on flu and pneumonia shots.

Stay informed.

- Check the Department of Health Website www.health.ri.gov
- Listen to the news.
- Read newspapers.
- Ask for information from community leaders.
- Follow directions from health officials.

What is the state doing?

Governor Donald L. Carcieri has appointed a Pandemic Flu Working Group to prepare Rhode Island for a pandemic influenza outbreak. State agencies, municipalities, hospitals, health care providers, businesses, industries and community leaders are working together to minimize the effect of an influenza pandemic on everyday life.

We are:

- Preparing to purchase antiviral medications and distribute vaccines if they are available.
- Helping health care facilities plan for a patient load much larger than normal with short staffing.
- Helping businesses prepare to keep their critical operations going.
- Planning to ensure that essential supplies to the state do not stop.

For updates, check www.health.ri.gov

"Flu" is a short way to say influenza, a contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses. These viruses can cause mild to severe illness, depending on the strain of the virus and the individual's ability to fight it off.

The State of Rhode Island, Donald L. Carcieri, Governor
The RI Department of Health, David R. Gifford, MD, MPH, Director
The RI Emergency Management Agency, Robert J. Warren, Executive Director

**Your Health
in Rhode Island**

Pandemic Influenza



Pandemic influenza is caused by a new influenza virus that appears or "emerges" in the human population. The new virus causes serious illness because humans have no existing immunity to it. It spreads easily from person to person, causing a global outbreak of disease within a very short time. There is no influenza pandemic now, but we need to be prepared.

