



*Protecting, maintaining and improving the health of all Minnesotans*

April 23, 2008

Dear Partners in Pandemic Influenza Preparedness:

Of all the public health emergencies Minnesota may face in the future, an influenza pandemic would be among the most devastating, resource intensive and complex. Although the visibility of avian and pandemic preparedness has waned in the media, the real threat of avian influenza and the potential for an influenza pandemic has not.

In keeping with the mission of the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) we are preparing for the possibility of a pandemic and have compiled the attached report, *Pandemic Influenza: 2007 Annual Progress Update, May 2008*. The purpose of this report is to inform our partners and the citizens of Minnesota about steps we continue to take to protect, maintain and improve public health should a deadly influenza virus threaten the state, the nation and the world.

We have been developing the infrastructure within our agency over many years to respond effectively to public health emergencies. This report describes steps taken in 2007 to build on this foundation, specific to an influenza pandemic, in areas such as communication, disease surveillance, laboratory, community mitigation strategies, healthcare planning, mass vaccination and stockpiling of antiviral medications and other resources.

We are proud of our progress in planning for the next pandemic. We will continue to work with you and other international, national, state, regional and local partners to ensure that when a pandemic occurs, Minnesota will have a strong safety net of people, plans and resources to get us through the difficult times.

If you have comments or questions about the report, please feel free to contact the MDH Office of Emergency Preparedness at 651-201-5700 or [oeep@state.mn.us](mailto:oeep@state.mn.us). Thank you for your continued efforts regarding this important work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sanne Magnan" with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Sanne Magnan, M.D., Ph.D.  
Commissioner  
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