

**THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS  
RESOLUTION ON PANDEMIC FLU PREPAREDNESS**

**Resolution Summary**

Preparation for a pandemic influenza outbreak, where widespread flu affects an entire country, continent or the whole world, is a possibility for which states and local communities must prepare. Influenza pandemics occurred three times during the last century, and history and science suggest that the United States will face at least one pandemic this century. Providing basic necessities, such as healthcare, food, water, power and emergency systems will be some of the many challenges that states will need to address in the event of an outbreak. People will be advised to stay at home to prevent the spread of the disease, causing large numbers of workers to be absent from their jobs. In addition, large community gatherings such as school, church, movies and sporting events will likely be cancelled.

The results of a pandemic outbreak will impact states on multiple levels: resulting in illness and death, altering social interaction, and damaging the local and national economy. In order to minimize the impact of a pandemic influenza, states and local jurisdictions need to have a plan in place and test the plan before the onset of a pandemic flu outbreak.

Because the pandemic will occur in many locations simultaneously and relief from the federal government will not be available, state and local governments must establish and test the effectiveness of their pandemic preparedness plans. The Council of State Governments recommends that state policymakers coordinate testing of their existing state plans with those of local jurisdictions; coordinate with the appropriate local agencies, businesses, faith-based and community organizations, and communications media; communicate roles and responsibilities to ensure each agency and local citizens understand their responsibilities; prepare for a pandemic outbreak through training and simulations; and evaluate and update the plans on a regular basis.

State legislators are uniquely positioned to provide leadership for these efforts and to provide an example of appropriate preparedness for fellow citizens to follow. Legislators are encouraged to maintain familiarity with state pandemic plans and those within their local jurisdictions. They are also encouraged to support public health emergency preparedness legislation and to maintain funding for public health emergency planning. Legislators can also provide leadership to assist efforts to ensure that effective communication occurs between constituents, businesses, and state and local emergency planners.

**Additional Resource Information**

State, Local, Business, and Individual Planning Resources – [www.pandemicflu.gov](http://www.pandemicflu.gov)

Preparing for a Pandemic Flu Influenza, A Primer for Governors and Senior State Officials – <http://www.nga.org/Files/pdf/0607PANDEMICPRIMER.PDF>

CSG Healthy States Website – <http://www.healthystates.csg.org/Public+Health+Issues/Terrorism+and+Public+Health+Emergencies>

## **Pandemic Flu Preparedness Management Directives**

- **Management Directive #1:** Create a sense of urgency concerning the need for pandemic flu preparedness at the state and local level.
- **Management Directive #2:** Support efforts by state legislators and policymakers to develop, test, and refine state and local pandemic preparedness plans.
- **Management Directive #3:** Copies of this resolution will be sent to the Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the Director of the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO), appropriate legislative leaders throughout the country and the nation's Governors.
- **Management Directive #4:** CSG staff will post approved resolution on CSG's Web site and make available through its regular communication venues at the state and local level to ensure its distribution to the state government and policy community.

**THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS**  
**Resolution on Pandemic Flu Preparedness**

**WHEREAS,** influenza pandemics occurred three times in the previous century, and history and science suggest that the United States and the world will face at least one pandemic in this century;

**WHEREAS,** a pandemic can cause severe illness, death, economic and social disruption throughout the country and the world, and outbreaks can occur in many different locations all at the same time;

**WHEREAS,** preparing for an influenza pandemic requires coordinated actions at all levels of government – federal, state, and local – and all sectors of society, including business, schools, faith-based and community organizations, families and individuals;

**WHEREAS,** the federal government has taken a leadership role in creating a prepared nation by monitoring international and domestic outbreaks, providing funding and technical assistance to foster state and local preparedness, stockpiling and distributing countermeasures, developing new treatments, and coordinating the national response;

**WHEREAS,** states and local communities are responsible under their own authorities for responding to an outbreak within their jurisdiction and having comprehensive pandemic preparedness plans and measures in place to protect their own citizens;

**WHEREAS,** state and local preparedness plans must be continuously exercised and updated to make certain that they work and to achieve a stronger level of preparedness;

**WHEREAS,** pandemic preparedness will help communities deal with any type of public health emergency and will have lasting benefits for the health of our nation;

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED,** that The Council of State Governments encourages states to establish, implement, test, and review plans for a pandemic outbreak in the state and local jurisdictions to protect the health of citizens, to protect social and economic infrastructure, and to remain vigilant in guarding against a pandemic outbreak.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that The Council of State Governments urges state legislators to be leaders in the planning process by maintaining familiarity with state and local pandemic preparedness, participating in testing of state and local plans, appropriating adequate funding for planning, and establishing communications with emergency planners and constituents.

Adopted this 3<sup>rd</sup> Day of December , 2006 at the CSG Annual State Trends and Leadership Forum in Phoenix, Arizona.



---

Governor Jim Douglas  
2006 CSG President



---

Senate President Earl Ray Tomblin  
2006 CSG Chair