

Federal Aviation Administration First Regional Aviation Medicine Team Meeting

Air Traffic Organization Business Continuity Planning for Pandemic Response

Presented to: ICAO Regional Aviation Medicine
Team of CAPSCA

By: Gregory Haywood

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Federal Aviation
Administration



Overview

- **Situation**
- **Workforce Protection**
- **Plans & Guidance Development**
- **Communication Tools**
- **MITRE Pandemic Influenza Experiment (PIE)**
- **Pandemic Influenza (PI) Containment**
- **Next Steps**



Situation

- **Centers for Disease Control remains concerned that the 2009 H1N1 influenza will result in increased impact on health**
- **The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and Air Traffic Organization (ATO) are taking a number of proactive steps to ensure that:**
 - The workforce is protected
 - Critical Air Traffic Control services continue during an outbreak

Plan for the Worst



Workforce Protection Plans

- **Multiple working groups are addressing workforce protection**
- **Hand sanitizer and cleaning handi-wipes for surfaces**
 - FAA wide purchase of hand sanitizer and dispensers (complete)
- **Modify FAA cleaning contracts to include additional cleaning of high-contact surfaces (e.g., doorknobs, elevator buttons, etc.)**
- **Personnel Protective Equipment (PPE)**
 - Implementing plans to purchase, stockpile and distribute mix of surgical facemasks and N-95 type respirators
- **Antivirals for air traffic controllers (and possibly others)**
 - The intended use would be as a prophylaxis (preventative)
 - Considering plans to purchase, stockpile, and distribute
- **Vaccinations (when available)**

Protection = Mission Continuation



Plans & Guidance Development

- **FAA Pandemic Influenza (PI) Plan update**
- **FAA Human Resources Guidance updates**
 - HR Policy Manuals and Q&As
- **FAA and ATO Managerial Guidance**
- **ATO Sustainment of Essential Government Services**
- **ATO Air Traffic Control facility PI contingency plans**
- **Canada / Mexico / United States Pandemic Influenza Aviation Operational Response Concept of Operations**

Consistent Plans = Consistent Response



ATO Communication Tools

- **ATO PI Manager's Tool Kit**
- **PI Workforce Questions & Answers**
- **Emergency Operations communication channels**
 - Crisis Response Working Group
 - Emergency Planners
- **During spring pandemic event:**
 - Conducted daily teleconferences
 - Developed and disseminated Daily Questions & Answers

Quality Communication = Predictable Employee Actions



ATO Communication Tools (continued)

- **Developed PI training course for employees**
 - Available on FAA training website and on CD
- **Conducting ongoing negotiations with Unions**
- **Regular broadcast messages**
- **PI Newsletter**
- **FAA Website Resources for PI**
- **PI posters for ATO facilities**

Quality Communication = Predictable Employee Actions



MITRE PI Experiment (PIE) 12-13 August

- **Tri-national with U.S., Canada, and Mexico**
 - Departments of Defense, Homeland Security, Transportation, and State
 - Transport Canada
 - Aeropuertos y Servicios Auxillares (Airport Services Auxiliary)
- **Experiment objectives were to:**
 - Evaluate efficacy of U.S. Interagency PI Guidance
 - Evaluate Trilateral CONOPS and SARC CONOPS
 - Model public health entry screening to determine impact on airports and National Airspace System
- **MITRE PIE Final Report due in October**

Experiment Results Can Highlight Areas To Improve



PI Containment

- **Passenger health exit and entry screening (Risk Based Border Screening)**
 - Led by Health and Human Services and Department of Homeland Security
 - DOT/FAA participating in planning to mitigate impact to aviation operations
- **Update FAA guidance for reporting of illness and death**
 - Model new ICAO guidance for pilots to contact ATC with reportable illness or death
 - Includes development of Centers of Disease Control (CDC) / FAA agreement for communications protocols between Domestic Events Network and CDC Emergency Operating Center

Containment = Mitigating Spread of PI



Next Steps

- **Continue to monitor the PI situation**
- **Further cultivate Tri-national (Canada, Mexico, U.S.) Communications (Meetings, Telcons, emails)**
- **Finalize plans for antivirals and PPE acquisition**
- **Ensure ATC facilities develop PI contingency plans**
- **Complete containment planning to mitigate PI impact on aviation due to entry / exit screening**
 - Update FAA guidance on pilot reporting
- **Update Trilateral CONOPS, SARC CONOPS, and other guidance based on MITRE PIE Report**

Active Engagement = Preparedness

