



# Defense Health Board

## Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Subpanel

**Gregory A. Poland, MD**  
**Vice-President, Defense Health Board**  
**Chair, Select Subcommittee on PI Planning and  
Response**



# Purpose

- Brief Background and Context
- Review of DHB PI Preparedness Recommendations
- Approval Vote



# Members

- **Workgroup Members**

- **Dr. Poland** (Mayo Clinic)
- **Dr. Ennis** (University of Massachusetts Medical School)
- **Dr. Silva** (University of California, Davis)
- **Dr. Oxman** (University of California, San Diego)
- **Dr. Kaplan** (University of Minnesota)
- **Dr. Miller** (Fogarty Center, NIH)
- **Dr. Dowdle** (Emory University)
- **Dr. Gardner** (Fogarty Center, NIH)
- **Dr. Lane** (NIH)
- **Dr. Clements** (Tulane University)
- **Dr. Walker** (UTMB)



# Background

- **Select Subcommittee on Pandemic Influenza Response and Preparedness – established by Dr. Winkenwerder in late 2005**
- **Goals**
  - *Assist DoD in PI planning and response*
  - *Specific issues of concern include:*
    - *Epidemiology*
    - *Response*
    - *Vaccine*
    - *Antivirals*
    - *PPE*
    - *Surveillance*



# ROE

- DoD-specific
- Focus on areas within our and DoD's sphere of influence
- Focus on both immediate and future recommendations
- Focus on what's feasible



# Background

- Letter of Agreement (Dec 05)
  - Advisory role only
- DoD Pandemic Planning Overview (Jan 06)
- PI Scenarios (Jul 06)
- Role of Children in PI (Jul 06)
- DoD PI Response – Specific Planning and Research Recommendations (Mar 06, Jul 07)
- Use of 1203 H5N1 vaccine (Jul 07)
- Use of PPE (Jul 07)
- Recommendations on vaccine, antivirals, convalescent plasma (Jul 07)
- Recommendations on Southern Hemisphere Vaccine (Oct 07)
- Recommendations on Convalescent Plasmatherapy (Jun 08)
- Pandemic influenza preparedness recommendations (May 09)



# Specific Issues

- Anti-viral Recommendations
- Vaccine Recommendations
- DoD and Interagency Decision-making
- PI Research Recommendations
- Convalescent Plasma Recommendations
- PPE Recommendations
- Novel Flu Diagnostics Recommendations
- Antimicrobial Stockpile Recommendations
- Pneumococcal Vaccine Recommendations
- Phase I-IV Clinical Trial Recommendations



# Context

- Teleconferences
- Email
- Face-to-Face Meeting 8 May 2009
  - Representatives from all DoD branches, NIH, CDC, DoD-GEIS, Health Affairs, DHHS, NVPO
  - Update current situation in regards to H1N1 pandemic
  - Review prior recommendations
  - Resulted in 20 recommendations





# Specific Recommendations

- Heightened active surveillance
  - Change in severity of cases
  - Change in epi of cases
  - Change in antiviral sensitivity
  - Expanded surveillance in Mexico and Central America



# Specific Recommendations

- Antivirals
  - Follow current CDC guidance for use
  - Special situations
    - Shipboard
    - Special Ops
    - Deployed forces
    - Congregated forces: Recruit Training, Service Academies
  - Concerns with one drug approach
  - Replenishment of supplies



# Specific Recommendations

- Special Populations
- New consideration of populations with specific needs
  - Children
  - Morbid obesity



# Specific Recommendations

- Research
  - DoD positioned to materially assist with advancing the science
    - Transmission (USAFA)
    - Antiviral efficacy and resistance
    - Surveillance (Drift)
  - Encourage DoD to actively fund and support research



# Specific Recommendations

- Active Surveillance
  - Heightened alert for case severity, changes in epidemiology, etc.
  - Expand surveillance into Mexico and Central America
  - Identify resources for focused Southern Hemisphere and equatorial surveillance is a priority
  - DoD-GEIS funding is a concern in timely surveillance and response



# Specific Recommendations

- Interagency Interactions
- NORTHCOM, Canadian Command, and Mexican Command interactions to be encouraged and strengthened



# Specific Recommendations

- Diagnostics
  - Expand ability to diagnose A/H1N1 to more locations
  - Insure continued or expanded throughput capabilities
  - Development and dissemination of a diagnostic algorithm
  - Anticipate confusion issues this Fall with concomitant seasonal virus circulation
  - Approval of alternate diagnostic platforms should be accelerated – FDA approval



# Specific Recommendations

- Respiratory Disease Research
  - DoD-internal team needed for mission-critical clinical research and vaccine trials
  - Long-term funding needed





# Specific Recommendations

- Vaccine Trials
  - Assist in clinical trials of candidate H1N1 vaccines ( DoD Infectious Diseases Clinical Research Program – IDCRP)
  - Enhance collaborations with NIH, BARDA



# Specific Recommendations

- Vaccine Trials (reiterate October 2007 recommendations)
  - Review plan for use of vaccine
  - Consider differences in implementing 1 vs 2 dose schedules
    - Electronic record keeping
  - Insure active safety surveillance capabilities
    - Electronic data transfer and database
    - Establish reporting mechanisms
  - Panel would like to review vaccine admin priorities and plan



# Specific Recommendations

- Convalescent Plasma
- Reiterate May 2008 recommendations
- Collaborations with NIH, FDA, Pharma



# Specific Recommendations

- Pneumococcal vaccine
- Review and update prioritization and administration plans
- Conjugate pneumococcal vaccines in phase III trials and licensure expected in near future



# Specific Recommendations

- Surge Capacity
- Ensure availability of surge capacity of essential resources
- Consider manufacturer capacity limitations (vis a vis JIT ordering)



# Specific Recommendations

- Communication and Education needs
  - Providers of all levels
  - Active duty
  - Guard and Reserve components
  - Beneficiaries, retirees
  - Evaluate effectiveness of strategies



# DISCUSSION