Public Health Emergency

Rapidly spreading life-threatening infectious diseases have occured World-wide in the past, and can occur in the future.

Plague, cholera, and influenza pandemics killed millions before sanitary conditions changed, and vaccines became available.

Scientists warn that another pandemic may occur if the Avian Influenza virus, H5N1, gains the ability to spread among humans.

Currently, Avian Influenza is primarily a disease affecting wild fowl. It can be transmitted to "back yard" or commercial poultry through contact with bird droppings or sick or dead migrating birds.

NIH and the pharmaceutical industry are working on developing an effective Avian Influenza Vaccine.

Experts indicate that individuals who are diagnosed with Avian Influenza have a good chance of recovering completely if they receive early and comprehensive treatment, which includes the administration of oseltamivir as an approved medication.

Be prepared. Plan how you and your family will respond to an Avian Influenza case if it occurs in your hometown.

Protect your family and yourself by following CDC's recommended guidelines.

Pandemic Flu Planning Checklist for Individuals and Families (PDF) (171kb),
http://www.pandemicflu.gov/plan/pdf/Individuals.pdf

Family Emergency Health Information Sheet (PDF) (173kb),
http://www.pandemicflu.gov/plan/pdf/InformationSheet.pdf

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