

Exercise 3

Infection Control and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Part 1: Group Discussion/Brainstorming Activity- Accessing and Prioritizing PPE during an Avian Influenza Pandemic

Objectives:

Know where to get personal protective equipment (PPE), who should use it, and understand how to prioritize its use.

Instructions:

1. Take 5 minutes to read through the following questions individually and contemplate responses.
2. Discuss each question as a group; designate one group member to record group responses.

Time allotted: 20 minutes

Question 1 – Does your local animal and/or human health rapid response team have access to all types of PPE (gloves, gowns, goggles/face shields, boots, surgical masks, and respirators)? If not, which types of PPE are needed?

Question 2 – Where is the PPE stored? How will the rapid response team (RRT) access the PPE?

Question 3: Have all RRT members in your jurisdiction been trained in the proper use of PPE and fitted for an N95 mask?

Question 4 – What other groups (besides the rapid response team) may need PPE in the event of an avian influenza outbreak? Is equipment available for these groups? Do they know how to access the equipment? Have they been trained in the proper use of PPE?

Question 5 – What do you think about advising members of the public who are concerned about exposure to avian influenza to wear masks?

Question 6 – What could you do if personal protective equipment supplies were limited or unavailable during an avian influenza pandemic? How would you prioritize the use of PPE in your area?

Part 2: Group Discussion and Problem Solving Activity- Applying Infection Control Measures to Different Situations

Objectives:

Group members will know when and how to apply infection control measures.

Instructions:

Four scenarios with varying complexity are described below. Engage in group discussion to determine which infection control measures would be most appropriate for each scenario.

Time allotted: 30 minutes

Scenario 1

While no human avian influenza H5N1 cases have yet been confirmed in the U.S., a highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza has been identified in poultry in your area. The avian virus causing this outbreak has been shown to cause lower respiratory disease in humans in other parts of the world. You are asked to lead a team that is being sent to identify and interview people who may have been exposed to infected birds on a small farm. You do not expect that your team will have direct contact with birds, but you may be near areas where the poultry were housed.

Question 1 – Based on what you know about infection control, what Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) would you bring on this initial visit as the public health responders?

Question 2 – If the PPE that you planned to bring is unavailable or cannot be accessed for some reason, how would you proceed?

Scenario 2

You are now arriving at the small farm and are preparing to conduct interviews. Your van is stocked with enough full PPE for your rapid response team, but local and state government officials are already on the scene for publicity purposes, and you notice that none are wearing PPE. You don't yet know whether any individuals on the farm have flu-like symptoms.

Question 3– How do you proceed? Will you conduct interviews without wearing PPE?

Scenario 3

While you are conducting an interview of a person who may have been exposed to sick poultry, the interviewee reports that she has a fever and diarrhea. You are not wearing any PPE.

Question 4 – Ideally, what PPE should be worn when interviewing a symptomatic exposed person?

Question 5 – How do you proceed in this situation?

Scenario 4

There are two suspected human cases of avian influenza in a local hospital. One case was admitted directly to the hospital. The second case initially presented in the emergency room, and was admitted to the hospital after mentioning his contact with ill poultry. The hospital has put the patients in separate, private rooms. Your team has been called to interview these suspected cases.

Question 6 – Which personal protective equipment will you wear during these interviews in the hospital setting?

Question 7 – Are there other infection control measures that should be taken in this situation?