

HEALTH DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS

1. Aim

The aim of this plan is to assess and evaluate human resources within the Health Department in order to respond to an influenza pandemic. The Department will identify essential services to be maintained depending upon the level of activity of the pandemic influenza virus in the community as well as re-allocate staff to deal with the emergency.

2. Concept

Health Department Operation activities shall be carried out by Managers within the Health Department and may include other Health Department staff as required. As the pandemic unfolds, it may be necessary for the Health Department to reduce or curtail certain services offered to the public in an attempt to provide an effective response to various pandemic activities.

3. Responsibility

The Medical Officer of Health (MOH) for the Durham Region Health Department has overall responsibility for the administration and delivery of the Health Department Operations during all phases of the Health Department Influenza Pandemic Plan. A Program Manager, Environmental Health Division will be responsible for implementing the Health Department Operations Annex.

4. Scope

The Health Department Operations annex consists of the following components:

- Plans for Health Department service continuity.
- Identification and prioritization of core essential services.
- Plans for re-allocation of staff to support pandemic response.
- Identify areas of surge capacity potential that may occur during a pandemic.
- Identify staffing requirements to support areas experiencing surge capacity.
- Identify impact on services provided to the community based upon 0-50% staff absenteeism rates.

Note: The Scope will probably change as this Annex develops - it currently reiterates the body of the Plan.