



## Pandemic Flu Vaccination Priorities Public Engagement Pilot Project | Preliminary Project Description

# What Do We Do About Flu?

### Current Sponsors

*This important initiative is being sponsored by:*

Lounsbery Foundation | Institute of Medicine  
The Keystone Center  
CDC National Immunization Program  
HHS National Vaccine Program Office  
Study Circles Resource Center

### Americans Discuss Difficult Choices On Who First To Protect Against Pandemic Influenza

“What Do We Do About Flu?” is a public engagement project charged with proposing guidelines for determining which groups in the population require the earliest protection against influenza in the event of a pandemic when supplies of vaccine are still limited. It will engage citizens, local/state and federal governmental officials, academics, non-governmental organizations, health care providers, and industry. Making these difficult choices will fill a notable gap in the current U.S. Pandemic Influenza Preparedness and Response Plan.

The project is designed to engage both types of publics, the organized public (**The National Stakeholders Group**) made up of stakeholder representatives from various organized interest groups, and the general public (**Local Citizen Dialogue and Feedback Sessions**), made up of individual citizens not representing any organized interests. Both publics are important to include because each brings unique experiences, perspectives, and values and both must support any decisions made if policy implementation is to succeed.

### National Dialogue Sessions

The National Stakeholders Group will be chosen from the key stakeholder groups such as those listed below:

- ♦ advocacy groups which are supportive of vaccines
- ♦ advocacy groups which have concerns about vaccines
- ♦ nonpartisan citizen or consumer groups with no preconceived views about vaccines
- ♦ government agencies and their advisory committees involved with vaccines
- ♦ health care and provider organizations
- ♦ vaccine industry representatives
- ♦ state and local government agencies
- ♦ minority group organizations
- ♦ emergency preparedness professionals

The representatives will be convened by the Institute of Medicine and The Keystone Center working in collaboration with a Steering Committee comprised of representatives of the key interests. The total number of participants is not expected to exceed 35 to facilitate optimum levels of interaction for quality dialogue and deliberation among the participants.

### National Meetings

#### Meeting I

Institute of Medicine, Washington D.C.

July 13, 2005 | 8 AM – 5 PM

July 14, 2005 | 8 AM – 3 PM

#### Meeting II

Institute of Medicine, Washington D.C.

September 7, 2005 | 8 AM – 5 PM

September 8, 2005 | 8 AM – 3 PM

### Local Citizens Dialogue Session

Atlanta, Georgia

Saturday - August 27, 2005

### Feedback Sessions

One Saturday morning or one evening session in September/October in:

Massachusetts

Nebraska

Oregon

## Local Citizens Dialogue & Feedback Sessions

Participants from the general public will be chosen from the four principal areas of the United States—the North, South, Mid-west, and Western regions—and will plan to include at least 100 citizens. The first general public event, the Local Citizens Dialogue Session, will be conducted in-between the two National Stakeholders meetings and will be designed to allow for large group dialogue and deliberation. The three final Local Feedback Sessions will be conducted after the National Stakeholder Sessions (as brief evening sessions) to vet and solicit input regarding the proposals from National Stakeholder Group and Local Citizens Dialogue Session.

### Purpose/Outcomes/Approach

There are many important policy questions related to pandemic influenza planning, however, the focus of this project is on the narrow question of priorities for the use of influenza vaccine.

---

#### Examples of subgroups of citizens or workers who might be associated with goals are:

- Policemen
- Ambulance drivers
- Direct health care providers
- Clergy
- Public health professionals
- Infants
- Elderly persons at highest risk of dying in seasonal epidemics
- Young adults at highest risk of dying as in a previous pandemic in 1918

The purpose of the project will be to identify and rank the potential goals for a pandemic influenza vaccination program when vaccine supplies may be limited in the early days of a pandemic. Also, the project may determine which subgroups of citizens and workers in the U.S. population are associated with each ranked goal to help provide more specific guidance to decision-makers at the state level and at the front lines.

#### Examples of potential goals for a National Pandemic Influenza Vaccination Program are:

- Maintain the health of persons at large
- Maintain the health of persons able to implement pandemic response activities
- Maintain the health of persons who provide the greatest economic benefits to the community
- Maintain the health of persons at highest risk of dying from influenza
- Maintain the health of persons most likely to transmit infection to persons at high risk of dying from influenza
- Maintain the health of persons most likely to pass on infection to anyone in the community
- Maintain the health of persons who provide vital social community services
- Maintain the health of persons able to provide quality care

---

### Outcomes of Deliberations

The final report, an integration of the outcomes from the above forums will be forwarded to immunization advisory committees and decision-makers at the Department of Health and Human Services that are responsible for pandemic flu planning. The final report will also include the individual summaries from the National Stakeholder Groups and the Local Citizens Dialogue and Feedback Sessions.

### Background Information

Essential background information will be provided to the participants in all of the sessions to ensure informed deliberations. Examples of background information include:

#### Influenza Pandemics

- Historical and Future Estimates

#### Vaccine Issues

- Background on "normal influenza vaccine"
- Expert estimates related to pandemic influenza vaccine

#### Ethical Considerations

#### Legal Implications/Constraints

