

The Butler County Influenza Preparedness Committee has been established to uncover issues which may adversely affect the health of the community during a Pandemic Influenza event. The Butler County Influenza Preparedness Committee is composed of representatives from local government organizations, private industry, and volunteer agencies in addition to health and medical leadership. In an overwhelming fashion, the committee has expressed that it is critical to efficiently communicate critical health information to the public while stressing education which allows individuals and families to take action in an effort to minimize their opportunity of becoming ill.

The Butler County Influenza Preparedness Committee endorses the following healthy practices to protect your health:

- Clean your hands often with soap and water.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth as much as possible.
- Stay at home if you are sick.
- Stay away from people who are sick.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing.
- Get regular exercise, enough rest and eat healthy balanced meals.
- Do not avoid a flu shot. If you have the opportunity to get a flu shot, get it.

Regardless of the type of influenza (Seasonal, Avian, or Pandemic), the same healthy practices are actions which individuals and families may adopt in order to minimize their opportunity of becoming ill.

If you would like to learn more about influenza issues, please visit the websites provided within our links from our homepage.

Seasonal (or Common) flu is a respiratory illness that can be transmitted person to person. Most people have some immunity, and a vaccine is available.

Avian (or bird) flu is caused by influenza viruses that occur naturally among wild birds. The H5N1 variant is deadly to domestic fowl and can be transmitted from birds to humans. There is no human immunity and no vaccine is available.

Pandemic flu is virulent human flu that causes global outbreak, or pandemic of serious illness. Because there is little natural immunity, the disease can spread from person to person. Currently, there is no pandemic flu.

Source: www.pandemicflu.gov

Committee Representation Includes:

Robin Thomas	American Red Cross
Gary Miller	American Red Cross
Debbie Weber	Edgewood City Schools
Dudley Smith	University Hospital & Health Alliance
Sheila McAdams	Mercy Hospital-Fairfield
Beckie Williams	Fort Hamilton Hospital
Susan Irvine	City of Hamilton Health Department
Chief Greg Homer	Monroe Police Department
Chief Paul Stumpf	Liberty Township Fire Department
Steve Bartels	OSU Extension
Al Cowie	Univan USA
Sharon Francis	Hamilton City Schools
Michael Jett	Middletown Regional Hospital
Tony Goller	West Chester Township Fire Department
Janet Lealy	Middletown City Schools
Karen Preston	Butler County Health Department
Brian Williamson	Butler County Health Department
Tricia Anglin	Butler County Health Department
Greg Cifuentes	Fairfield Fire Department
Jennifer Mason	Hamilton Fire Department
Jim Hamblin	Butler County EMA
Anthony Dwyer	Butler County Sheriff's Office
Carol Seals	Butler County Sheriff's Office
Carla Estep	Butler County Sheriff's Office
Sandy Brunner	Miller Brewing Company
Janay Mourer	Middletown City Health Department
Jim Slager	Miami University