

Poster Section: Distribution of All Medical Supplies

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Poster Title: 2007 Updates: Target Groups for Antivirals and Vaccines

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Seasonal and pandemic influenza preparedness requires a multi-pronged approach that includes surveillance and detection; non-pharmaceutical interventions, including personal protective measures; antivirals; and vaccines. The draft model reflects conceptual underpinnings for the updated plan of the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) for antiviral allocation, distribution, and storage and updated vaccine target groups. Target group decisions are based on the latest science and recommendations from participants in 2 expert panels convened by DSHS. Participants included academicians, attorneys, community advocates, epidemiologists, ethicists, faith community representatives, hospital representatives, influenza experts, pharmacists, and practicing physicians.

The draft *2007 Updates* replaces our previous priority group recommendations. Preventing influenza-related morbidity and mortality is the highest priority. In an effort to prevent or delay widespread infection, the initial focus is outbreak control. Research indicates that with a moderately transmissible virus, use of targeted antiviral prophylaxis for family and social contacts of diagnosed cases (school or work) will have the greatest impact on reducing attack rates, surpassed only by adding school closures and social distancing to the mix. To maximize the potential for timely outbreak management and treatment initiation, health and emergency care providers must stay healthy. Maintaining the public infrastructure is a priority to minimize social disruption and economic effects.