



IL ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH ADMINISTRATORS
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PLANNING FOR PANDEMIC FLU: Local Health Departments & Community Partners Hold Exercise

During the month of August, area certified local health departments gathered with their community partners including police, fire, emergency management, physicians, hospitals, religious leaders, educators and others to address key issues and elements of a Pandemic Flu Outbreak. With funding provided by the Illinois Department of Public Health, regional tabletop exercises like this one held today in Springfield are being held across all of Illinois throughout the month of August. Seven of such exercises are being coordinated by the Illinois Association of Public Health Administrators, an association representing 84 health departments outside the Chicago and collar county area.

“Planning, preparation and prevention are key principles of local public health, said Greg Chance, IAPHA President. These regional exercises provide a unique opportunity for emergency responders and local stakeholders to work through the action plan to address significant issues relative to an infectious disease outbreak such as Pandemic Flu.”

Just as planning and simulated emergencies have assisted in readying communities to address other natural disasters, today’s tabletop exercise engages local community partners to do the same for the emerging issues of Pandemic Flu. As a result of the leadership of Governor Blagojevich and the Illinois Department of Public Health, Illinois is taking advantage of key funding to assist communities in the development of public health response plans to protect the health of Illinois citizens. Should a crisis of Pandemic Flu impact our state, Illinois is planning to be ready to meet the challenge.