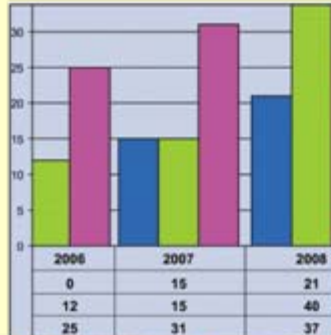


Ring O'Rosies

Mass Vaccination Clinic

Risks & Opportunities

October 2008



2008 NSW Health EXPO



Prepared by Chris Kewley
Hunter New England Health

Brought to you by:

PHILIPS

Aim

- Exercise to test the Hunter New England Health Area Health Service Mass Vaccination Clinic Operational Plan
 - Capacity to deliver adequate & timely treatment to mass presentations
 - Workforce capacity and response to mass clinic contingencies
- Recognition that deficiencies in the plan could result in considerable excess morbidity and mortality during a pandemic response

Nature and Extent of the Problem

- Influenza pandemics occur 3-4 times each century when a novel influenza strain, transmissible between people, causes significant illness, to which no one has pre-existing immunity, emerges
 - 1918-1919 pandemic 50 million deaths worldwide
- WHO has warned member countries to prepare for an inevitable pandemic
- No exercise has ever been conducted in Australia to test the effectiveness of mass vaccination clinic plans

Strategic Importance

- NSW Health State Health Plan Towards 2010
 - Strategic Direction 7 ‘Optimally prepared to respond to the threat of a future influenza pandemic’
- To test and refine mass vaccination clinic plans under NSW Health Interim Influenza Action Plan and HNE Health Pandemic Influenza Plan
- Outcomes are of national & international importance

Planning & Implementing Solutions

- Activated for people living and/or working in Aberdeen, Upper Hunter, NSW
 - Invited to attend mass vaccination clinic on 11 March 2008 between 14.00 – 20.00 at local High School
- Partners included: Upper Hunter clinical staff, GP/VMOs, Population Health, Disaster Coordination & Response unit, Communications unit, NSW Health Bio-preparedness & Immunisation Units, LEMC Upper Hunter Shire, St Joseph's High School, St John Ambulance
- Client survey, time & flow analysis, umpires' reports, exercise situation reports, hot and cold debriefs



Outcomes & Evaluation

- 498 community members vaccinated; 60% rated clinical management as excellent, 38% as good
- Clinic planning & preparation: Standing Operating procedures & Job action sheets revised; Changes in governance & vaccination delivery
- Role of external agencies could be increased
- Streamlining of operations: Reduction in clinic stations from 7 to 4 and immunisation staff tasks; Dispensing of observation period; Enhanced queuing management

Sustaining Change

- Modifications to the NSW Health State Plan will shorten expected throughput time by a minimum of 16 minutes
 - 60-80 vaccinations per vaccinator per hour
 - Separate management of individuals requiring assistance
- Standardised approach across NSW with benefits to entire NSW population during a future pandemic
- Plans available for use during public health responses to large vaccine-preventable diseases

Lessons Learned

- Performance of field disaster exercises are vital to optimising disaster preparations. Lessons learned include:
 - Need clarity of coordination role in revised Job Action Sheets
 - Prior contingency plan needed at local level to meet workforce demand during a pandemic
 - Interchangeability of clinical roles will address changes in clinic demand & OHS issues
 - Reduced stations, enhanced queuing management & simplified clinical operations will improve client flow rate
 - Enhanced use of external agencies will reduce the demand for Health personnel

Future Scope

- Being first of its kind in Australia, the lessons from this field exercise will be shared nationally to assist other States and Territories in pandemic planning
- Many countries are not as advanced as Australia in preparing for a future pandemic. This study will serve as the benchmark international study published so that other countries can benefit.

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