



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
and  
DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY

May 18, 2006

Dear Local Official:

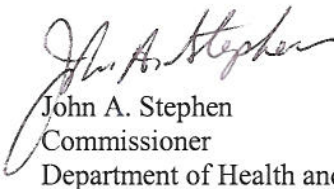
As you are aware, there is an increasing level of concern among state, federal and international officials with regard to the potential for an influenza pandemic. The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the Department of Safety (DOS) are working together to ensure that government and the public are prepared should a pandemic occur. The State recently received \$813,000 from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to strengthen our capacity to prepare for and respond to an influenza pandemic. A high-level Pandemic Preparedness Coordinating Committee (PPCC) has been established to provide oversight to the State's preparedness activities. The PPCC includes a number of municipal officials and other public and private sector partners.

The PPCC has directed that 95% of these funds, totaling to \$772,660 be made available to support regional planning efforts that will include every municipality statewide. In recent weeks, a number of partners within each region have been meeting to identify an agency willing to serve as the regional fiscal agent and draft a plan to complete a set of activities that will strengthen the region's capacity to respond.

To achieve success, all municipalities and government leaders should participate in planning. To demonstrate our commitment and responsibility to one another we are asking that every municipality sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Governor Lynch, DHHS and DOS, and the regional fiscal agent as co-signatories. Signing this MOU does not commit any municipality to provide direct funding towards these efforts. Regional planning groups will determine how the funds provided to their region will be expended and the cost of municipal officials participation is an allowable cost.

Thank you, in advance, for demonstrating your support and commitment to this process by signing the MOU. Please contact Neil Twitchell, Section Administrator, Community Public Health Development Section at (603) 271-5194, for more information.

Sincerely,

  
John A. Stephen  
Commissioner  
Department of Health and Human Services

  
Richard M. Flynn  
Commissioner  
Department of Safety