

Foreword

MidCentral District Health Board is responsible for the health and well being of its district.

In the event that a pandemic occurs, and impacts on our community, we must ensure that effective systems are quickly enacted to enable health and disability services to be provided as required. This responsibility not only covers the provision of our secondary and speciality community services. It extends beyond that to co-ordination with other health providers, in particular those in the primary sector and agencies to secure their support as required.

Our Pandemic plans need to be in place, be readily understood by all, and be capable of immediate enactment. Compliance with these essential requirements will be assessed, reviewed and exercised on a regular basis.

We must accept that as a result of any pandemic there will be inevitable loss and sadness from within our community. It is the responsibility of the MidCentral District Health Board to work with health care providers and agencies involved in this plan to minimise the impact of a pandemic. Through effective partnerships with our districts Primary Health Care Providers, Ministry of Health, Central and local Government and other health care professionals we can progress toward achieving this purpose.

The effect of a Pandemic will not solely be the responsibility of 'Health' as a sector to prepare, respond to and recover from. A pandemic will be a matter of business continuity across all sectors of our community and as such other Government agencies have been tasked to prepare for and respond to specific responsibilities.

To be successful, this Plan must be a living document. It is the responsibility of all to be aware of the contents, aware of their designated responsibilities, and to suggest changes and improvements so as to continually improve this plan.



Murray Georgel
Chief Executive Officer
MidCentral District Health Board
27th February 2006

MidCentral District Health Board Pandemic Plan

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***N.B. Chapters 7, 11, 13, 14, 15 and some of the appendices are still under development. Some of these chapters have been included with this internet publication but remain only in outline form. As these chapters are developed they will be included in their entirety on the internet. The appendices will not be published as the value to the public is limited and the content will be bound by commercial sensitivity.**

Distribution List

The full distribution list is not shown here due to the complexity and changing nature of those in receipt of this plan. The plan will be distributed to health providers in a hard copy format from within but not limited to primary, secondary and tertiary health services, private medical facilities and management organisations, Residential Care, Dental Care, Pharmacies, Funeral Directors, Iwi, emergency services including other DHB's, the Ministry of Health, local authorities and members of local government agencies involved with pandemic planning within MDHB area

All versions will be as current as those displayed on the MidCentral DHB Website <http://pn-extweb1.midcentral.co.nz/projects/ER/ER-Pan.htm>

For reasons of ease of updating this plan, individual chapters will be available through .html and .PDF formats

Any updates of this plan will be available through the MidCentral District Health Boards internet site or requesting a copy through riskmanagement@midcentral.co.nz

MDHB Internet website

Other information is available through the following links;

www.midcentral.co.nz

www.midcentral.co.nz/projects/ER/ER-Pan.htm

Preface

An influenza pandemic has the potential to cause serious health and economic problems for New Zealand.

Management of such a pandemic requires close cooperation between the local District Health Board, the Primary Health Providers, and community groups including Council, Emergency Services and Civil Defence.

MidCentral DHB Pandemic Plan goes along way to achieving this. It is highly detailed, well thought out in the list of the topics it covers, and innovative in its ideas such as Community Based Assessment Centres.

It is a credit to the multi-disciplinary team that has put it together.

It is obvious that the MidCentral DHB has taken a lead role in pandemic Planning. A leadership role that is essential in the successful implementation of any plan.



Dr Steven Zambazos
General Practitioner

Acknowledgements

This plan remains in draft form until such time as a pandemic is declared. This is to reflect the need for continual refinement, implementation and additional material required to effectively combat a pandemic that could affect our community. As such this plan remains very much a 'work in progress' and therefore comment and contributions that could assist in the preparation, mitigation and response to a pandemic are always welcomed.

Other sections will be added to this plan as the work is completed. The above index refers to topics that have been developed or currently under construction eg, the framework and plans for Community Based Assessment Centres. This is not to exclude other sections being added at later dates.

Acknowledgment is given to Vancouver Coastal Health and the Canadian Health Ministry from which certain material has been drawn.

Further acknowledgement must be given to the following representatives of the MDHB Pandemic Planning Group (refer chapter 6) who have devoted a lot of their time and energies in producing this document and its content.

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It has been said that for all the good planning that is done you cannot replace the good people who work for you in times of crises. The success of any planning is purely reflected by the quality of those who are required to respond and here in the MidCentral District Health Board area I believe we have a distinct advantage.

Murray Mills, CPP
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