

For more information on public health emergencies, please visit the following websites:

Harvey County
Health Department
www.harveycounty.com/health/health.html

Kansas Department of Health
and Environment
www.kdhe.state.ks.us

Centers for Disease Control and
Prevention
www.cdc.gov

Department of Homeland Security
www.dhs.gov

The Harvey County Health Department is preparing for a public health emergency in Harvey County. We are partnering with emergency management, law enforcement, healthcare facilities, government officials, and other southcentral Kansas county health departments in our emergency planning. This brochure is provided to you as part of our emergency preparedness activities.

What is Pandemic Flu?

A pandemic is caused by a new virus or one humans have not been exposed to in a very long time.

The new virus would spread rapidly worldwide.

The new virus would infect people of all ages and cause serious illness and deaths.

A pandemic would occur in waves and last many weeks or even months.

You and your family may be asked to remain at home during a pandemic.

A pandemic would cause significant disruption to society and the economy.

What is Avian Flu?

There are many flu viruses that affect birds. A flu virus known as H5N1 is now affecting birds in many parts of the world.

H5N1 can infect humans if people handle birds infected with this virus. As of this time, H5N1 is not spread person to person.

If H5N1 becomes able to spread between people, a pandemic could occur.

Harvey County Health Department



Public Health Emergency Preparedness

*Important information for you
and your family*

What is a Public Health Emergency?

A public health emergency can be described as “an intentional or accidental occurrence of an illness or health condition that affects the health of a community and its people.” It could be caused by a natural disaster, like a flood or tornado, a new infectious disease, an accident such as a chemical spill, or by a terrorist attack.

Be Prepared

*Keep copies of your important papers in a secure, fireproof, waterproof case

*First aid supplies should be kept in a toolbox or fishing tackle box, which are waterproof and easy to carry. Some things to keep in your emergency kit::

Medications	Flashlight	Radio
Batteries	Cash/Credit Card	
Snack Bars	Emergency Contact Info	
Antibiotic ointment	and bandages	
Pocket Knife	Extra keys	
Sturdy shoes	Clothes/jackets/coats	

*Visit with your family members on what you would do in case of an emergency. Find out about emergency plans at your child’s school and at your workplace.

In case of a public health emergency, look for this symbol:

This symbol denotes a Neighborhood Distribution



Center, a community facility that would be set up quickly to distribute medication, supplies, or vaccinations to the public.

Harvey County Neighborhood Distribution Centers

Burrton High School

United Methodist Church—Halstead

Hesston High School

Newton High School

Grace Community Church—Newton

Thresher Gymnasium—Bethel College, North Newton

Sedgwick Elementary School

Walton Elementary School

In case of a confirmed public health emergency, have the following information with you before going to your Neighborhood Distribution Center: Names of all household members, your address and contact phone number, weights of all persons under 90 lbs., medication allergies of all persons. Be aware of other conditions, including liver and kidney problems, epilepsy, pregnancy, or breastfeeding.

In case of a chemical emergency, you may need to “Shelter-in-place”. Here’s how:

- Move inside immediately—including your pets
- Close all windows and doors
- Get your home disaster kit, if possible, especially a battery powered radio
- Turn off air conditioners, furnaces, and fans
- Go into a room and seal the cracks with duct tape, towels, or blankets
- Turn on local television and radio stations for information from your local authorities

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