



OCT. 31, 2006

HEALTH ALERT

*****This is only an EXERCISE*****

Lignite Wind Exercise – Health Alert Message #4

The events being reported are not real. Do not take action except for attending the emergency videoconference.

Since October 24, a total of 473 patients – with 423 requiring hospitalization due to pneumonic plague – have been reported to the North Dakota Department of Health. These patients report sudden onset of symptoms that include fever, chest pain, cough, headache, weakness and difficulty breathing. A total of 42 patients have died. Age ranges from less than 10 years to over 65 years.

Points of distribution (PODs) of antibiotics have been established at seven sites: Mandan, Bismarck, Hazen, Garrison, New Town, Beulah, and Turtle Lake. Turtle Lake replaces the Washburn site.

Providers should call 800.472.2180 or 701.328.2378 to report suspected cases.

To address this new information, the North Dakota Department of Health will be holding an emergency videoconference on Tuesday, October 31, at 11:00 a.m. Central. Your participation is strongly encouraged. All local public health units will be automatically connected to the video call. Please make sure your camera and television are turned on and your locations are MUTED.

If you are unable to attend the meeting at a video site, you may call into the teleconference bridge at (866) 888-3374. Please MUTE your telephones upon connection. Or, you may view on your PC at a later time at the following link:

mmst://www.health.state.nd.us/webcastvideoarchive/20061031Exercise1.wmv

Please remember, if the preceding link does not work, you may need to copy the address and paste into your web browser.

Categories of Health Alert messages:

- Health Alert conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.
- Health Advisory provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.
- Health Update provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; no immediate action necessary.
- Health Information provides general information that is not necessarily considered to be of an emergent nature.

This message is being sent to local public health units, clinics, hospitals, physicians, first responders, tribal health, North Dakota Nurses Association, North Dakota Long Term Care Association, North Dakota Healthcare Association, North Dakota Medical Association, North Dakota EMS Association and hospital public information officers.

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Please do not respond to this message.