

Slide 1

**Alberta Prepares
for Pandemic Influenza**

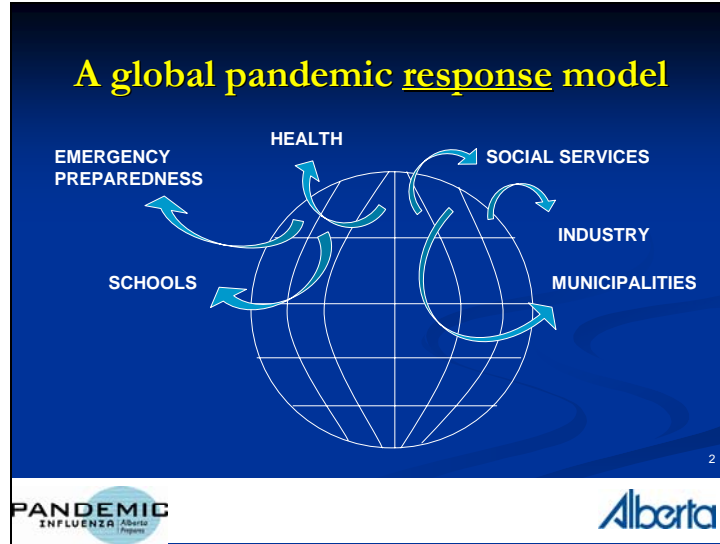
Pacific Northwest Economic Region
Annual Summit
July 18, 2006

Honourable Iris Evans
Minister
Alberta Health and Wellness

PADEMIC
INFLUENZA
Alberta
Prepares

Alberta

The slide features a dark blue background with a subtle wave pattern. The title is in a large, bold, yellow serif font. The event details and speaker information are in a smaller, white sans-serif font. At the bottom, there is a white horizontal bar containing the 'PADEMIC INFLUENZA' logo on the left and the 'Alberta' logo on the right.



Speaking Notes

- A pandemic influenza will not be contained within a provincial or territorial boundary. It will not be contained within one country or one geographic region.
- Pandemic influenza is a global threat. Planning activities need to be coordinated at all levels of government – internationally, federally, provincially, and locally to effectively manage the burden of a pandemic.
- No one agency or entity can effectively manage the potential impacts of a pandemic. It is therefore essential all aspects of society work together to prepare for a pandemic.

Alberta Prepares for Pandemic Influenza

- The Government of Alberta is committed to minimizing the impact of an influenza pandemic by:
 - Limiting transmission and treating those infected
 - Ensuring people have access to the essential services
 - Managing societal disruptions and psychosocial impacts; and
 - Providing strong leadership

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PANDEMIC INFLUENZA Alberta

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Speaking Notes:

- Our mission is to preserve the health and the well-being of all Albertans. The risk of a pandemic is real and the expected consequences of a pandemic on the health and well-being of Albertans is likely to be serious. We need to be prepared for an influenza pandemic which means taking action today.
- To minimize the impact of an influenza pandemic, the Government of Alberta is developing response plans that aim to:
 - Limit the transmission of the virus and treat those infected
 - Ensure essential services required by Albertans are maintained throughout the pandemic

- Manage the societal disruptions and address the psychosocial impacts of the situation; and
- Guide and lead Albertans through the pandemic and recovery by providing clear, relevant and accurate information.

Alberta's Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Strategy

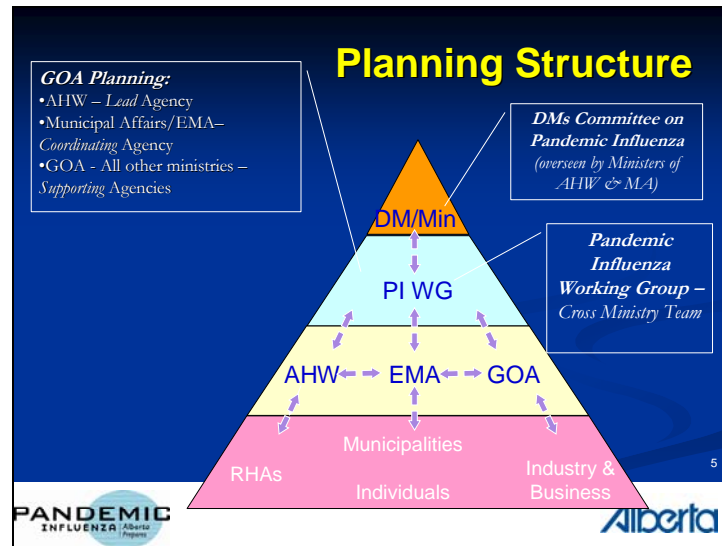
- Using a cross-ministry approach to ensure the government and the province is prepared and able to respond to a pandemic influenza.
- Led by Alberta Health and Wellness in partnership with Emergency Management Alberta and with other ministries providing support.

PANDEMIC INFLUENZA Alberta
Alberta

Speaking Notes:

- Alberta is using a cross-ministry approach to ensure the government and the province are prepared and able to respond to a pandemic. Our plan relies on the co-operation of all ministries to provide support in mitigating the impacts of this health emergency.
- Alberta Health and Wellness is the lead agency for pandemic influenza planning. Emergency Management Alberta is providing coordination and all other ministries are providing support.

- The Cross-Ministry work is being overseen by a Deputy Minister's Steering Committee. The committee has representatives from the ministries of:
 - Alberta Health and Wellness
 - Municipal Affairs/Emergency Management Alberta
 - Solicitor General and Public Security
 - Justice
 - Human Resources and Employment
 - Agriculture, Food and Rural Development
 - Restructuring and Government Efficiency – Alberta's shared-services component
 - Government Services
 - Finance
 - Personnel Administration Office
 - Executive Council



Speaking Notes:

- Preparing for a pandemic influenza event takes considerable planning and requires the engagement of all segments of Alberta – individuals, organizations/businesses, governments, and the health sector- the Regional Health Authorities.
- This planning structure provides for coordination while leveraging key stakeholders. The Government of Alberta continues to work with all stakeholders to ensure that planning efforts are aligned and complementary.

Alberta Prepares

- Alberta's Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Strategy is composed of a health response and a Government of Alberta operations response.
 - Complement each other
 - Coordinate efforts of individuals, businesses/organizations, local municipalities, regional health authorities and provincial and federal governments.

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PAIDEMIC INFLUENZA Alberta Prepared

Alberta

Speaking Notes:

- Alberta's Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Strategy is composed of a health response and a Government of Alberta operations response.
- The two plans complement each other and provide a means of coordinating the efforts of the health and non-health sectors.

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- **Health Response:**
 - Reduce influenza illness and death
 - Minimize societal disruption among Albertans by providing access to appropriate prevention, care and treatment
- **Government of Alberta Operations Response:**
 - Support delivery of government's essential services
 - Support the health response
 - Support the societal response – working with external stakeholders

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PANDEMIC INFLUENZA Alberta Project

Alberta

Speaking Notes:

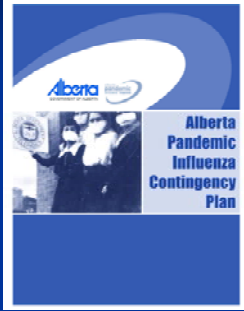
- Alberta's Health Response is being led by Alberta Health and Wellness in consultation with the regional health authorities. The goals of the health response, which parallel those of the federal plan, are to:
 - Reduce influenza illness and death; and
 - Minimize societal disruption among Albertans by providing access to appropriate prevention, care and treatment.

- The Government of Alberta operations response is being led by Emergency Management of Alberta in consultation with Alberta Health and Wellness and other ministries. The goals of the operations response are to:
 - Support delivery of Government of Alberta's essential services
 - Support the health response; and
 - Support the societal response.

Key assumptions of Alberta's Preparedness Strategy:

- All aspects of Alberta's society have a role to play in preparing and being able to respond to a pandemic influenza – individuals, organizations, businesses and all levels of government.
- Service delivery is a local responsibility – local municipalities and nine local regional health authorities are accountable for providing services; and
- The Government of Alberta does not deliver services directly, but supports municipalities and regional health authorities as much as possible through a pandemic influenza event.

Alberta's Health Response:



- AHW has been involved in pandemic planning since 1997
- Draft contingency plan released in 2002
- AHW is completing development of the Pandemic Influenza Plan.

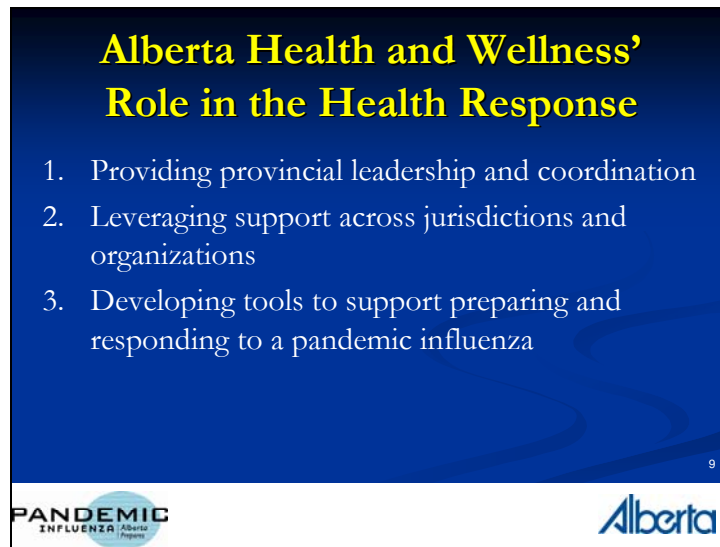
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PAIDEMIC INFLUENZA Alberta Health Services

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Speaking Notes:

- Alberta Health and Wellness has been involved in pandemic planning since since 1997. In 2002, Alberta released its draft contingency plan.
- Alberta Health and Wellness is completing development of the Pandemic Influenza Plan – an operational response that focuses on the role of Alberta Health and Wellness and the nine regional health authorities to ensure coordination of Alberta’s health system for an effective and timely emergency response to a pandemic influenza.
- The plan incorporates lessons learned through SARS and is being developed through extensive consultation within the ministry, with the regional health authorities and with other key stakeholders.



**Alberta Health and Wellness'
Role in the Health Response**

1. Providing provincial leadership and coordination
2. Leveraging support across jurisdictions and organizations
3. Developing tools to support preparing and responding to a pandemic influenza

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PANDEMIC INFLUENZA Alberta Program

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Speaking Notes:

- Alberta Health and Wellness has 3 areas of responsibility in leading the health response for the province.

First, Alberta Health and Wellness is providing provincial leadership and coordination by:

- Communicating to the public and to the health professionals
- Developing a provincial health-related emergency response that is synchronized with Health Canada
- Coordinating regional health authorities by using a common emergency management model – the Incident Command System
- Purchasing and distributing vaccine and antivirals
- Analyzing and disseminating surveillance data

- Setting standards for health service delivery and public health measures; and
- Conducting exercises of pandemic influenza plans.

Second role: Alberta is leveraging support across jurisdictions and organizations; organizations like:

- 30 provincially-regulated health professions colleges and associations; and
- Health Canada/Public Health Agency of Canada (including First Nations and Inuit Health Branch)

And finally Alberta has developed tools that will support preparing and responding to a pandemic influenza.

For example, Alberta has amended the *Alberta Public Health Act* to:

- Build on existing powers
- Define a public health emergency
- Designate diseases
- Expand the duty to notify
- Address disclosure of information; and
- Take whatever steps are necessary to decrease the impact of a public health emergency.

Education & Awareness Tools

Influenza Self-Care It's in your hands

- Annual influenza message
- Respiratory etiquette
- Stay well
- Prepare
- When to seek medical care

INFLUENZA SELF-CARE
It's in your hands

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PANDEMIC INFLUENZA Alberta Program

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Speaking Notes:

We have also developed influenza self-care materials to educate Albertans and health care providers on:

- Choosing to immunize against flu
 - Hand washing
 - Covering your cough
 - Staying well
 - Being prepared; and
 - When to seek medical care.
-
- Prevention is the key and it is in each individual's hands. Next to immunization, the single most important way to prevent influenza is frequent hand washing.

**Regional Health Authorities
Role in Health Response**

- Regional coordination and delivery of all health services to the public
- Region specific communication to the public and health professionals/front line staff
- Vaccine and antiviral delivery, tracking, reporting
- Regional surveillance data collection and reporting
- Coordination with municipal and local stakeholders

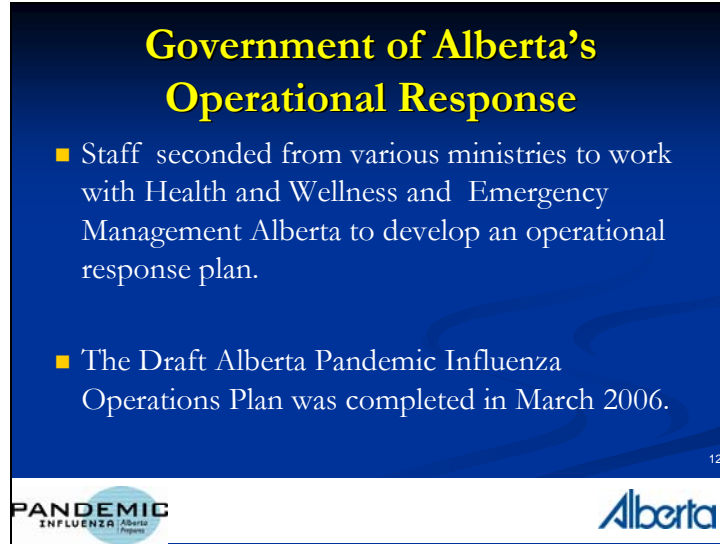
PANDEMIC INFLUENZA Alberta Program

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Speaking Notes:

- Regional health authorities have been undertaking pandemic preparedness activities since 2002. Each region is developing a plan to respond to pandemic influenza that complements the provincial plan.
- Regional health authorities' role in the health response includes:
 - Regional coordination and delivery of all health services to the public and in co-operation with the provincial plan
 - Regional specific communication to the public and health professionals/front line staff
 - Vaccine and antiviral delivery, tracking, reporting
 - Regional surveillance data collection and reporting; and
 - Coordination with municipal and local stakeholders.



**Government of Alberta's
Operational Response**

- Staff seconded from various ministries to work with Health and Wellness and Emergency Management Alberta to develop an operational response plan.
- The Draft Alberta Pandemic Influenza Operations Plan was completed in March 2006.

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Speaking Notes:

- In order to support Alberta's health response to a pandemic influenza, the Government of Alberta has developed an operational response plan.
- A team of representatives from various ministries were seconded for the month of February to work with Alberta Health and Wellness and Emergency Management Alberta to draft the Operations Plan.
- The Draft plan was presented to the Deputy Minister's Pandemic Influenza Committee and the Ministers of Alberta Health and Wellness and Municipal Affairs in March 2006.
- Greg Carter, Manager of Emergency Management Alberta, will provide more details on the government operational response plan.

**Next Steps as
Alberta Prepares**

- Continue developing and enhancing Alberta's Pandemic Influenza Operations Plan and Pandemic Influenza Plan.
- Conduct exercises to assess the effectiveness of the plans.
- Continue communicating with Albertans and stakeholders about pandemic influenza preparedness and response planning.

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PANDEMIC INFLUENZA Alberta

Speaking Notes:

- Alberta is committed to testing and exercising its pandemic influenza plans across government and with key stakeholders.
- The first exercise of the Government of Alberta's Operations Plan was conducted May 18th and 19th for Ministers, Deputy Ministers and Directors of Communications.
- The Government is also developing a training and exercise program that will engage at a regional level the regional health authorities, local municipalities and key stakeholders. This program will be delivered in early 2007 and the goal will be to ensure coordinated planning amongst all stakeholders.

- Alberta is also committed to ongoing communications with Albertans and stakeholders about pandemic influenza preparedness and response planning.
- My ministry will be working closely with regional health authorities to support their role in delivering health care services during a pandemic.
- Considerable work has been done to prepare for a pandemic influenza – we know however, there is more work to be done to continue to refine and improve upon our level of preparedness.

Cross Jurisdiction Coordination

1. Clarification of roles and responsibilities of all agencies
2. Identify and resolve potential issues with our bordering jurisdictions before a pandemic

An influenza pandemic will affect us all. We all need to work together to provide the best possible response for our citizens.

PANDEMIC INFLUENZA Alberta
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Speaking Notes:

- Alberta has developed its Pandemic Influenza Plan to align with Canada’s Pandemic Influenza Plan. As we continue to refine Alberta’s pandemic influenza plan, it is imperative Alberta has a clear understanding of the role of the federal government in each phase of a pandemic.
- As seen through the response and recovery phases from other world disasters like Katrina, it is vital that roles and responsibilities are clearly understood by all organizations that are involved in delivering the response or recovery to a major event. Failure to do so jeopardizes the well-being of our citizens.

- We are currently at Phase 3 in the World Health Organization's 6 phases of a pandemic. We have the opportunity now to work together to identify and resolve cross jurisdiction issues. Given the global nature of a pandemic, we also need to take the opportunity to work collaboratively to develop the best possible responses for our citizens.
- This afternoon's session will provide a great opportunity to start exploring areas where our various jurisdictions can work together more collaboratively.

Thank you.