



BOBBY JINDAL  
GOVERNOR

**State of Louisiana**  
**Governor's Office of Homeland Security**  
**and**  
**Emergency Preparedness**

MARK A. COOPER  
DIRECTOR

August 18, 2009

Dear Parish Directors,

The purpose of this communiqué is to provide you guidelines for the development of a pandemic flu plan for the parish and to announce a one-day work shop for OEP Directors and parish stakeholders with the purpose of providing additional information and direction based on new information as it becomes available from federal agencies.

Successful pandemic preparedness and response efforts are complex and require the participation of multiple stakeholders. The Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP), Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH), and Department of Education (DOE) have developed the enclosed Parish Pandemic Flu Planning Guide. This guide identifies key pandemic flu planning considerations for local governments. Parish governments are requested to establish pandemic flu planning teams to assist in the development of parish pandemic flu strategies and tactics. This requires an integrated process including planning with your key stakeholders such as first responders, public health, and local school districts. The issues outlined within the document have been taken from the working draft of Supplement 7 to Louisiana's Emergency Operations Plan entitled Louisiana's Influenza Pandemic Operations Plan, which was developed through an integrated planning approach with the DOE, DHH, and GOHSEP.

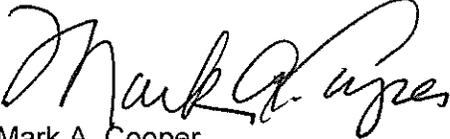
Parishes are strongly encouraged to use this format and integrated approach to develop a comprehensive pandemic flu plan for their jurisdiction and to complete the plan no later than October 1, 2009 if not sooner. In addition, we strongly encourage Parishes to expend current Homeland Security Grant Awards on PPE's and other supplies in preparation for a busy flu season. GOHSEP will be announcing the 2009 Homeland Security Grants, which can also be utilized for this purpose. State agencies stand ready to provide technical assistance to parishes in the development or enhancement of pandemic and continuity of operations plans.

Parishes are also encouraged to work with their Regional Office of Public Health to either develop public education campaigns or integrate existing state public information strategies into their plan. Jurisdictions may consider hosting community based summits to either gather or distribute information related to pandemic flu planning efforts being conducted within the jurisdiction. Community education materials are available through GOHSEP, DHH, or DOE. Additional information can be obtained at [www.getagameplan.org](http://www.getagameplan.org) or [www.flula.com](http://www.flula.com).

GOHSEP would like to invite you to participate in a pandemic flu planning workshop specifically for OEP Directors and stakeholders on September 2, 2009 in Natchitoches, Louisiana. This event will provide an in-depth overview of state and parish pandemic flu preparedness activities and provide you additional tools in developing your own plans. Further guidance on this workshop is forthcoming.

Thank you for your continued service and dedication to this great State. Together, we can prepare for, respond to, and recover from any emergency or disaster that comes our way.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark A. Cooper". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mark" being the most prominent.

Mark A. Cooper