



September 18, 2006

MEDIA ADVISORY

WHO: Harris County Public Health and Environmental Services, Houston Department of Health and Human Services, and the Greater Houston Partnership

WHAT: *Area Businesses Prepare for Avian Influenza*

WHEN: September 19, 2006
8:00a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

WHERE: Intercontinental Hotel
2222 West Loop South

WHY: Although many businesses may have emergency plans, most do not have provisions that address a major reduction in workforce over long periods of time.

The Centers for Disease Control estimates that about 40% of the work force may not be able to report to work due to personal or family illness during a major pandemic influenza wave. Also, public health experts believe that outbreaks lasting 2-3 months are likely to come in waves during an avian influenza pandemic.

During a pandemic, businesses will play a key role in protecting employees' health and safety as well as our economy and society.

Successful public health and economic recovery after a pandemic, hurricane, terrorist attack, fire or flood is dependent upon continuity of operations planning done today.

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