



National Lieutenant Governors Association

Resolution on Pandemic Flu Preparedness

Whereas, The H1N1 Influenza Outbreak showed how quickly a new influenza strain can emerge and travel around the world, testing the public health preparedness of the United States; and

Whereas, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that between April 2009 and 10 April 2010 between 43 million and 89 million cases of 2009 H1N1 occurred in the United States, resulting in 195,000 to 403,000 H1N1-related hospitalizations and between 8,870 and 18,300 H1N1-related deaths, and;

Whereas, An effective, mobilized, and supported public health system with healthcare professionals has helped to reduce the number of illnesses, hospitalizations and deaths from the H1N1 virus; and,

Whereas, Preparing for an influenza pandemic requires coordinated action at all levels of government - federal, state, and local - and all sectors of society, including businesses, schools, faith-based and community organizations, families, and individuals; and

Whereas, An informed and prepared public is essential to minimizing the health effects of a pandemic and the resulting consequences to society; and

Whereas, Preparedness plans must be continuously exercised and updated to make certain that they work and to achieve a stronger level of preparedness; and

Whereas, Pandemic preparedness will help communities confront any type of medical emergency and will have lasting benefits for the health of our nation and economic security; and

Whereas, Many lessons have been learned from the 2009-2010 H1N1 influenza outbreak that should be applied to improve future response; and

Whereas, We must work toward enhance disease surveillance, vaccine availability, and strong support for local health partners such as public clinics, schools, and community institutions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the National Lieutenant Governors Association (NLGA) encourages the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and other relevant government entities to work with state leaders to review policies and responses from the 2009 H1N1 outbreak to identify lessons learned, maintain appropriate levels of support, and better prepare for a future outbreak or other catastrophic event in the United States in order to protect the health of our citizens, the strength of our economy, and to remain vigilant in guarding against preventable catastrophes.

As introduced this 30th day of June, 2010.

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