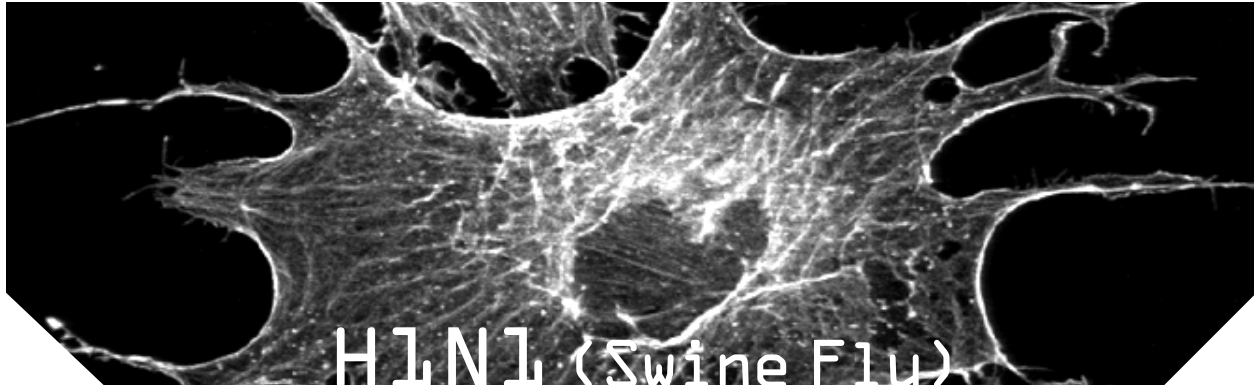


# Marin Interagency Disaster Coalition (MIDC) Partners' Tabletop Exercise

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October 6, 2009



## H1N1 (Swine Flu) What Will *You* Do?

**This tabletop exercise** is designed to get you thinking about pandemic flu's potential impact on your agency or organization and what you can do to lessen that impact and protect your employees, volunteers and clients.

As you answer the questions posed by the exercise, you'll be starting to develop your own pandemic influenza plan.

### **Scenario**

The H1N1 outbreak in Marin County has escalated in recent weeks. Approximately one in three people are or have been ill. Approximately 90 people have died and 800 have been hospitalized due to H1N1 in the last month in California. The majority of hospitalizations and deaths are among those under age 50.

Your employees and volunteers are scared and their fears are exacerbated by an abundance of unfounded rumors. Absenteeism is on the rise and estimates are that 40% could be absent. Marin County Public Health and the Center for Disease Control (CDC) have recommended a number of options to limit the spread of flu, including social distancing of 6 feet (keeping 6 feet of distance between individuals).

Today, your boss has come to you and says the agency needs to figure out how it's going to work with the guidelines issued by the CDC and ensure volunteers and staff are safe, while still maintaining services to your agency's clients. She wants you to get a team together at work and to come up with a plan.

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## Task 1

Working alone, take **7 minutes** to answer the following questions from your organization's perspective. Jot down your answers in the space provided and use a separate sheet if needed.

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### 1. Determine the likely impact of H1N1 pan flu on your agency's services:

- a. Will more people need your services and thus increase your load?  Yes  No
- b. Will current clients/members have additional needs for which they'll need your help?  Yes  No
- c. What are the essential services your agency will need to continue during a pandemic?

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- d. If your services are normally provided face-to-face or in group settings, can they be provided differently (e.g. meal program that drops off food at door rather than take food inside)? If so, how?

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### 2. What services could you continue to provide with minimal staffing?

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### 3. What other organizations might you collaborate with to share resources and solve problems?

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## Task 2

Then take **20 minutes** to brainstorm answers to the following questions with the other people at your table. Select a reporter and be prepared to **report back on one item** from your discussion that you'd like to share with the larger group.

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### 4. Assuming there will be staff absences, what are some ways you might adapt to the situation?

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### 5. How might you communicate/educate with staff, volunteers, clients, etc., to limit disease spread:

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### 6. What are some things you could do to protect staff?

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