



August 2006

Dear Neighbors,

As your City Council, we urge you to take steps now to prepare for potential future emergencies.

In the event of a major disaster, many services and supplies we count on every day may be temporarily unavailable, including police and fire protection. Hospitals may be overwhelmed. Supermarkets, pharmacies, banks and gas stations may not be open and/or may run out of supplies. Individuals and families could be on their own, without professional assistance, for some time. Being prepared to be self-sufficient for several days to several weeks is your best protection.

We are publishing this notice now because the timing of major disasters is unpredictable.

As you may have read, an avian flu virus is slowly spreading worldwide. So far the few humans infected have been as a result of direct contact with infected birds. However, over 50% of the reported humans so infected have died, with the highest mortality rate among previously healthy younger adults. This virus might mutate so that it can be transmitted easily from human to human. If this happens it would likely reach every part of the globe very quickly. There is no known vaccine to prevent infection, and one cannot be developed until the mutation occurs. If the mutation does occur, a vaccine will likely take 6 to 8 months to develop. The best estimate by the Santa Clara County Health Officer is that during this time up to 630,000 people in Santa Clara County could get sick, with up to 33,000 deaths, along with millions of deaths worldwide.

The disruption to daily life could be substantial. Food and water supplies may be disrupted, schools and parks closed, quarantines imposed, and all public gatherings discontinued. Hospitals would be so overwhelmed that most infected individuals would have to be cared for at home by family members.

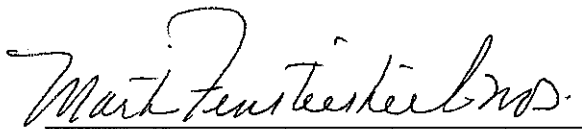
While the federal government will work on the vaccine, it has notified local governments that they will be on their own in dealing with the infected. Santa Clara County is organizing volunteer disaster response teams and creating temporary influenza care centers. As helpful as these steps may be, most of those infected would have to rely on themselves, their families, and their existing resources.

Following are the actions we recommend to all residents:

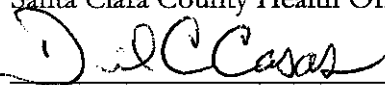
- Take the CERT (Certified Emergency Response Team) training offered by the Los Altos Police Department; call 650-947-2777 for more information.
- Obtain a copy of "Your Guide to Preparing for Pandemic Influenza" published by the Santa Clara County Public Health Department by sending an email to PanFlu@hhs.sccgov.org with your name, address, county of residence, number of copies requested and purpose (personal use, distribution to where, sample for re-creation).
- Develop an emergency contact plan. Local and cell phone service may be disrupted.
- Stockpile medications, water, food and supplies (see suggestions below).
- Have an emergency supply of cash on hand.

These steps could save lives and help others. We all hope that this avian virus never mutates and spreads, but we should be prepared for this or any other major emergency.

(Over)



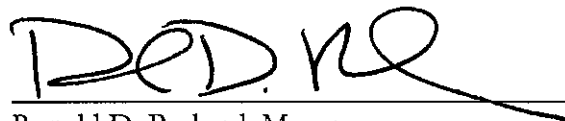
Martin Fenstersheib, MD, MPH
Santa Clara County Health Officer



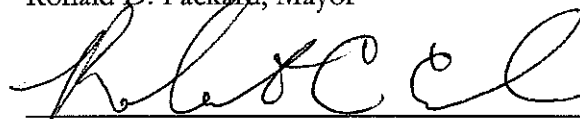
David Casas, Councilmember



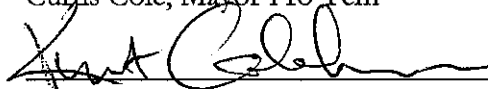
Val Carpenter, Councilmember



Ronald D. Packard, Mayor



Curtis Cole, Mayor Pro Tem



Kurt Colehower, Councilmember

EMERGENCY SUPPLIES

Because everyday life may be different during a major disaster and services could be disrupted, stockpile these items now:

- Water stored in sealed, unbreakable containers. If water service is disrupted, plan on one gallon for each person for each day, for up to two weeks.
- Two weeks supply of food for you and your family, including pets. This should be food that does not need refrigeration. Food like canned meats and fish, beans, soups, vegetables and fruits, and dry goods like flour, salt, and sugar, are good choices.
- A means of cooking that does not rely on electricity or natural gas. Candles and matches for light, as well as flashlights and plenty of spare batteries.
- Two weeks supply of prescription medicines.
- Two weeks supply of ibuprofen or acetaminophen for each person in the house for fever and pain. A two-week supply of cough medicine.
- Rehydration solution, such as Pedialyte for kids, and Gatorade for adults and teens. Rehydration solution can be mixed for adults and teens by mixing 4 cups of clean water, 2 tablespoons of sugar, and 1/2 teaspoon of salt. It is strongly recommended to use store-bought solutions for infants and toddlers.
- Supply of surgical facemasks and plastic gloves. These will help protect those taking care of others who are ill.
- Two weeks supply of disinfectants and chlorine bleach (use a 10% solution of bleach and water to clean surfaces).
- A first aid book.
- Paper goods, such as toilet paper, facial tissue, and feminine supplies.
- Cell phone and charger.