



DEFENSE INSTITUTE FOR MEDICAL OPERATIONS (DIMO)



“Healthcare Infection Control Planning for Pandemic Management” Mobile Education Team (MET) Expanded IMET (E-IMET) Pending MASL D309059

Background: The startling emergence and rapid global spread of a novel recombinant influenza in 2009-2010 has underscored the unpredictable, lethal and potentially overwhelming impact to global health authorities that a virulent pandemic influenza strain could have on the lives and security of a nation.

Program Scope: This intensive five-day course focuses on advances in the understanding of influenza from a medical, scientific and healthcare systems resource management standpoint. Strategic utilization of vaccines and therapeutics are presented based on international guidelines and scientific evidence, and novel approaches to surge conditions are discussed. Special consideration is given to vulnerable populations such as pregnant women and at-risk age groups. Guidelines for home care and emergency medical services adaptation to the conditions of pandemic flu are reviewed. A thoughtful approach to the rationing of medical resources in a pandemic environment of overwhelming need is considered in the context of host nation priorities, values and culture. Infection control, health care worker safety and hospital epidemiology are particularly emphasized in this program in order to minimize the risk of transmission of influenza and other extremely contagious diseases to patients and hospital workers. The curriculum begins with four days of state of the art lectures, small group discussions, tabletop exercises and hands-on practice with personal protective equipment for hospital infection control programs. The fifth and final day of the course uses the course lessons in a guided self inspection and evaluation of the infection control plans and facility constraints of a host nation health care facility. A subsequent facilitated discussion will identify and validate specific plans and requirements for programmatic improvement in infection control and health care worker safety practices and facility limitations in order to better prepare for pandemic influenza.

Course Objectives: The goal of this course is to optimize plans for pandemic influenza management emphasizing safe and effective leveraging of limited health care personnel, hospital beds, vaccines and therapeutics. Emphasis is placed on identifying shortfalls in infection control and healthcare worker safety programs both in hospitals and emergency medical systems and characterizing specific resources or procedural modifications required to provide an effective and safe environment for healthcare workers and patients. Improving infection control and healthcare worker safety shortfalls provides an immediate benefit to the recipient country whether or not they will face the burden of pandemic influenza, and improves the foundation of their healthcare system should such a stress occur.

Course Duration: 5 days; **Class Size:** 50 students maximum (5-10 for in-hospital day 5); **How Offered:** Conducted as a mobile education team (MET), with day 5 in a local healthcare facility.

Intended International Audience: Hospital and emergency medical services directors and healthcare workers; national healthcare resource managers; national planners for public health and epidemiology; Ministries of Health and Defense; ethical and religious leaders addressing medical ethics; individuals and institutions applying for healthcare grants.

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