

United Nations Predicts Bird Flu Will Reach U.S. Within Next 6-12 Months

“Bird flu is likely to spread to birds in the United States within six months and could produce an epidemic among humans ‘at any time,’ said a United Nations official. The prediction by David Nabarro was the first by a top global health official pinpointing when birds carrying the flu will arrive in the lower 48 states.

“‘There will be a pandemic sooner or later,’ Nabarro said. ‘It could start any time. We have a virus capable of replicating inside humans. We have a virus that humans are not resistant to. We have a virus about which we don’t understand everything.’”

**— Bloomberg News
March 9, 2006**

Bush Administration Estimates of Possible Consequences from Avian Flu Pandemic

Characteristic	Moderate (1958/68-like)	Severe (1918-like)
Illness	90 Million	90 Million
Outpatient Medical Care	45 Million	45 Million
Hospitalization	865,000	9,900,000
ICU Care	128,750	1,485,000
Mechanical Ventilation	64,875	742,500
Deaths	209,000	1,903,000

Source: Department of Health and Human Services, *HHS Pandemic Influenza Plan*, November, 2005.

Local Communities Will Require Federal Assistance If Pandemic Strikes

“Our hospitals and our public health system are funded for normal levels of operation... but have always relied on the federal government should we have need for more ventilators, for example, in the event of an earthquake or other mass-fatality event.’

“What the federal planners are not getting, she says, is that in a pandemic, every community will be asking for ventilators from the national stockpile at the same time.”

– Director of Public Health in Seattle
and King County, Washington
As quoted in *USA Today*
February 21, 2006

Why We Need More Resources for Bird Flu Vaccine Research

- **We have limited vaccine production capacity – relying on only three companies.**
- **The bird flu virus is mutating, making current vaccines less effective.**
- **Current vaccine production is egg based and could be threatened by bird flu itself.**
- **We need alternative technologies, since companies have few incentives to build expensive cell-based production facilities.**

Conrad Avian Flu Amendment

To increase funding by \$5 billion to combat avian flu pandemic and increase local preparedness:

- Provides \$1.5 billion to increase stockpile of antivirals and necessary medical supplies including masks, gloves, ventilators, antibiotics, and ongoing medical treatment needs for chronic care patients.
- Provides \$2.5 billion to accelerate vaccine research, development, and manufacturing.
- Provides \$1 billion to increase state and local preparedness.
- Ensures that the additional funding will be fully offset.