

Pandemic Influenza: Preparing and Responding to a School Crisis

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“ As a former superintendent of the nation’s seventh largest school district, I know the importance of emergency planning. The midst of a crisis is not the time to start figuring out who ought to do what. At that moment, everyone involved – from top to bottom – should know the drill and know each other.”

Former Secretary of Education, Rod Paige



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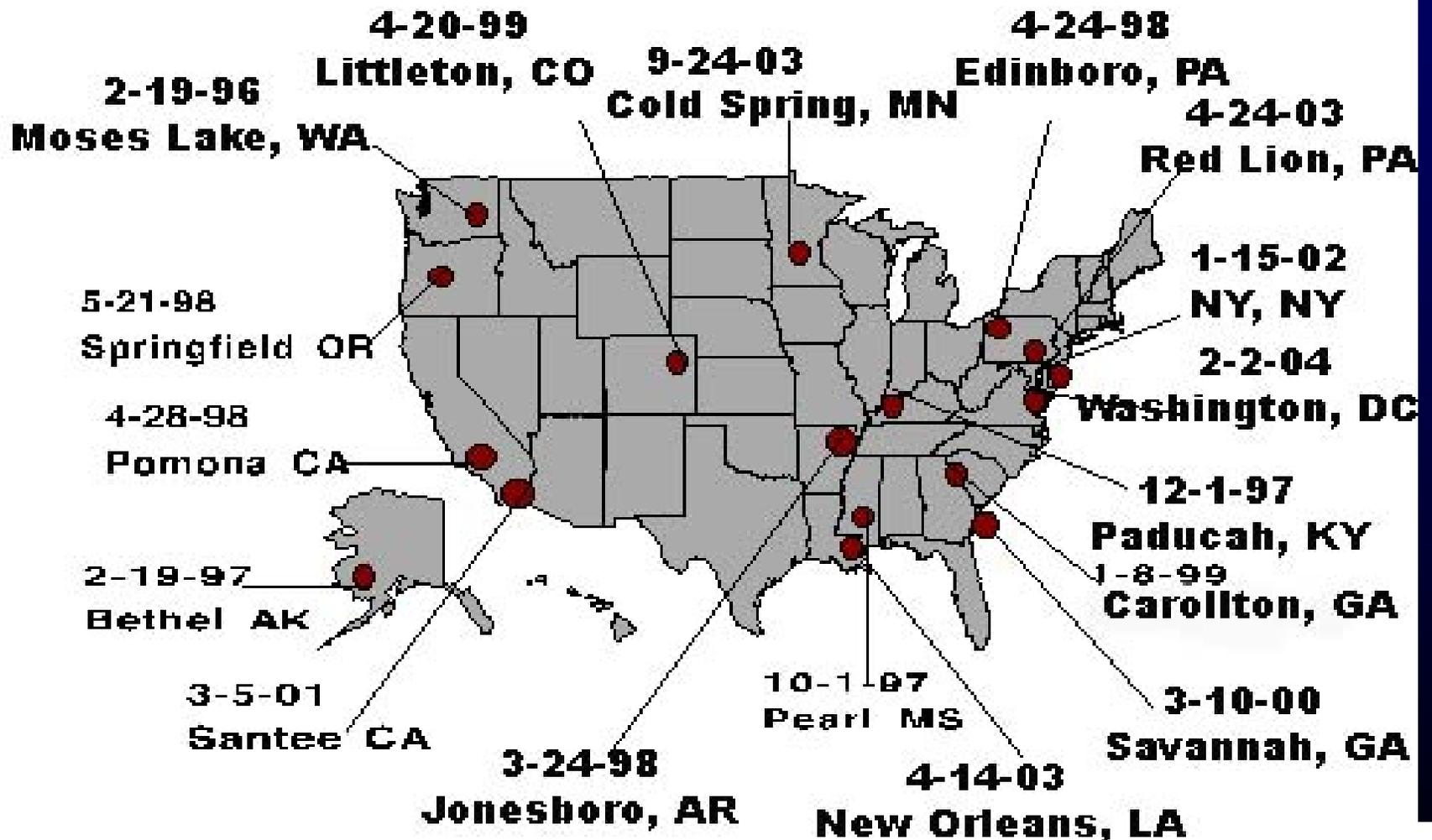
Natural Disasters

- Tornadoes
- Floods
- Hurricanes
- Earthquakes
- Landslides



School Shootings

Multiple Homicides at School



Infectious Diseases

Colds

- Pertussis
- Viral Meningitis
- Lice/Scabies
- Ringworm
- Chickenpox
- Seasonal Influenza



Infectious Diseases

- Seasonal Influenza



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Avian Influenza

- Avian influenza or “bird flu” is an infection in birds caused by a variety of subtype viruses.
- One such subtype is H5N1.
- Some strains of H5N1 are highly pathogenic.
- The severe strain of H5N1 is killing birds in Asia and parts of Europe.



Avian Influenza cont....

- The H5N1 strain has sickened about 142 people in Asia who came in contact with the sick birds – 74 people died.

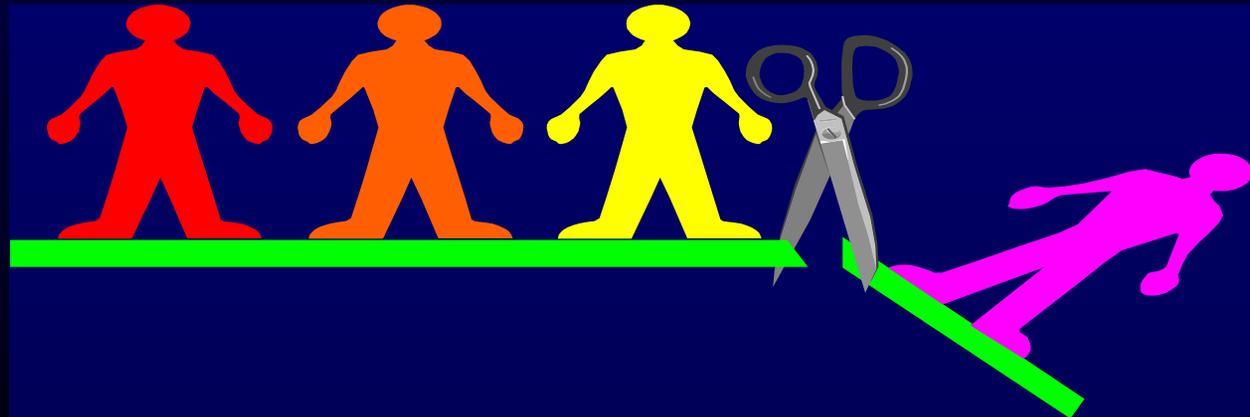


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Pandemic Influenza = Global Outbreak

- Conditions Supporting Pandemic Influenza
 - New influenza type emerges
 - Causes serious human illness
 - Spreads easily from person to person



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Currently there is no pandemic influenza in the world.

- Scientists can not predict if and when the H5N1 virus might start a pandemic.



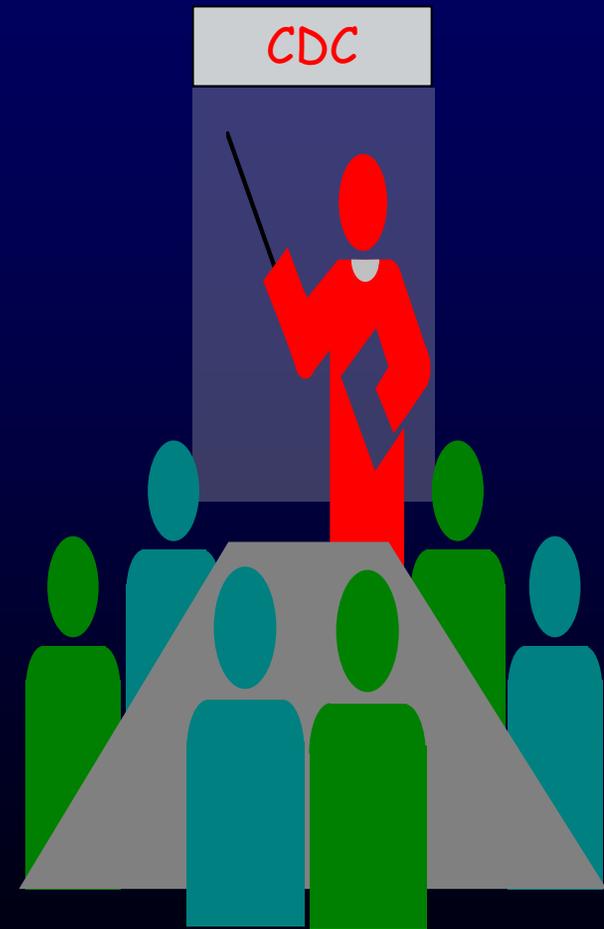
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Public Health Prepares for a Possible Pandemic...

Issues:

- An Influenza pandemic may emerge with little warning.
- A vaccine will not yet be available.
- The supply of anti-viral drugs will be limited.



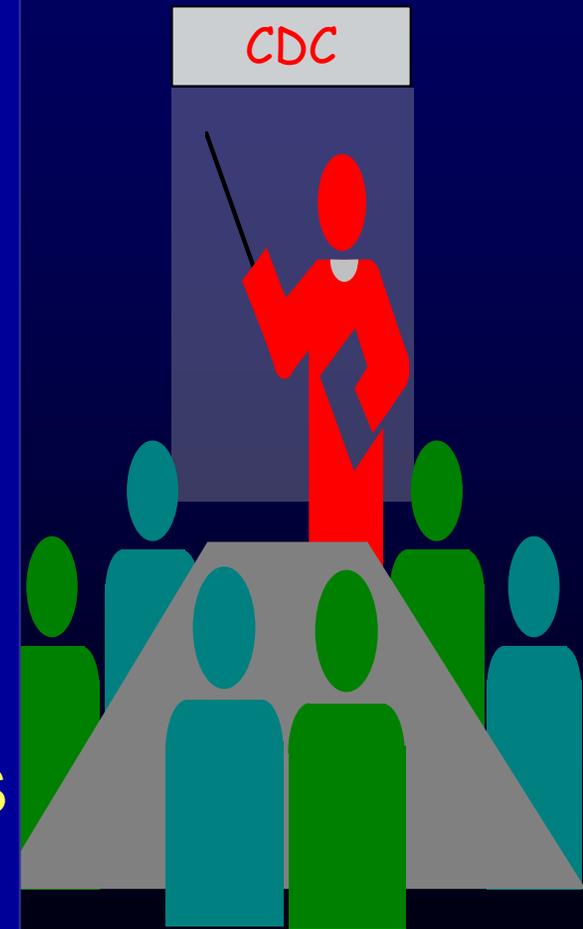
1918-19 Pandemic Influenza (Type A H1N1)

- More than 500,000 deaths in the US.
- Up to 50 million may have died world wide.



CDC Recommends...

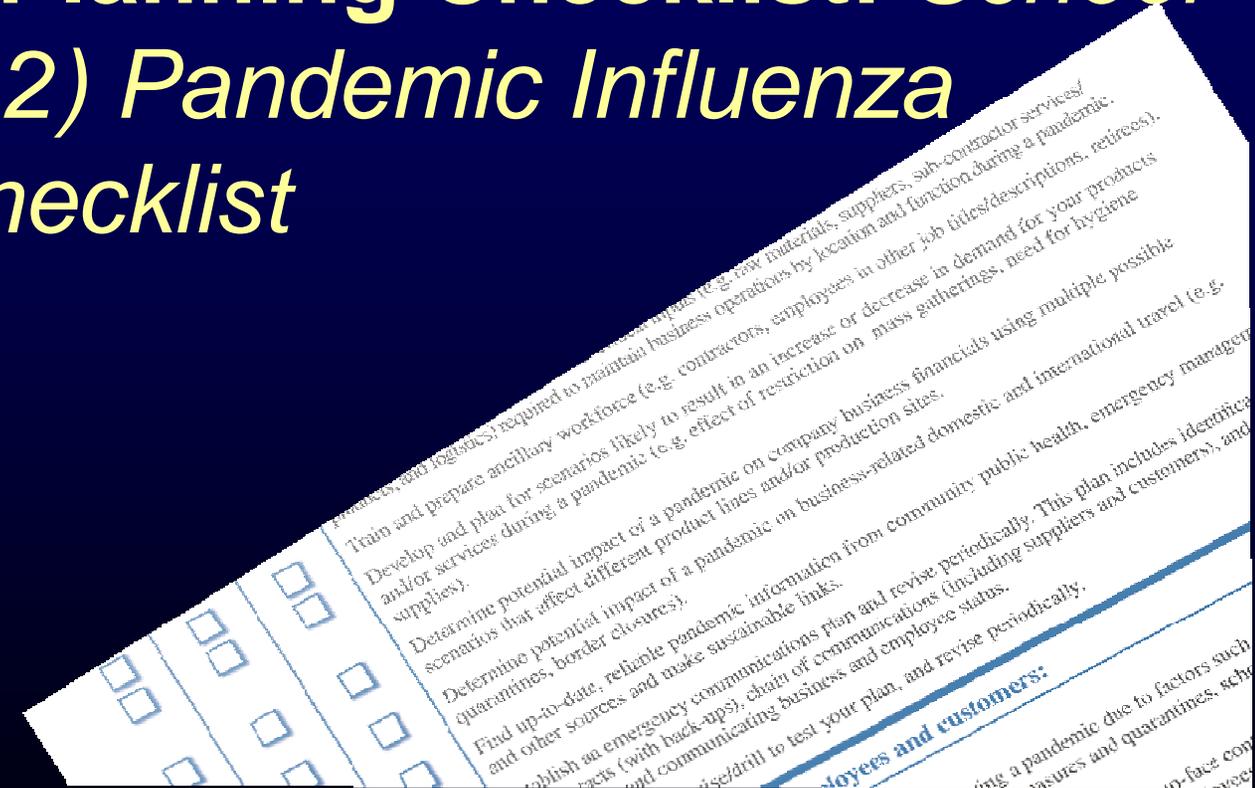
- ✓ Begin planning for a potential pandemic
- ✓ Draft key documents identifying
 - * legal authority for action
 - * quarantine and isolation orders
 - * opening and closing schools



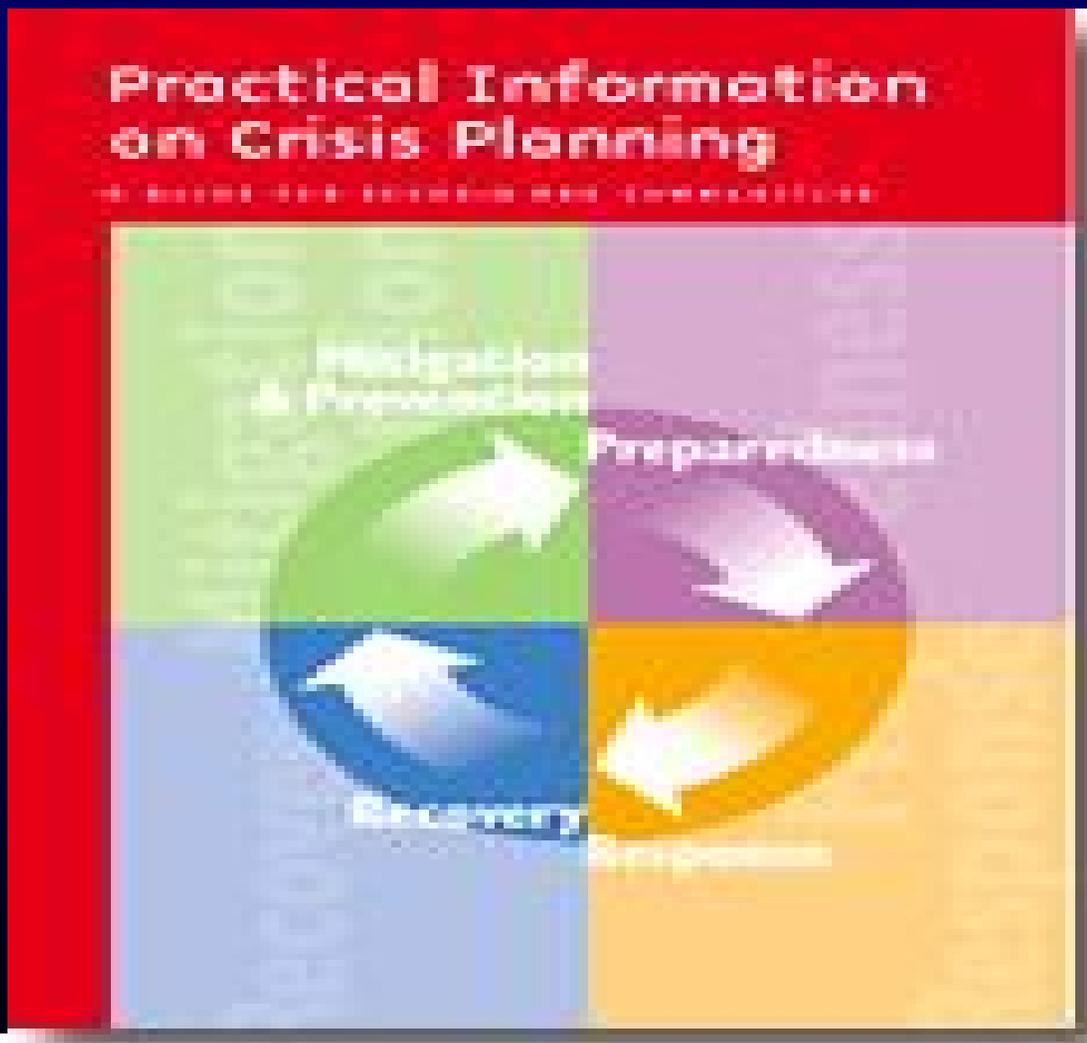
CDC Resources:

1) www.pandemicflu.gov

2) **District Planning Checklist: *School District (K-12) Pandemic Influenza Planning Checklist***



US Department of Education's *Practical Information on Crisis Planning*



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Crisis Planning: The Basic Steps



- Prevention
- Preparedness
- Response
- Recovery



Prevention

Reducing and/or eliminating risk to life and property of a particular environment.

- Implement prevention programs
- Institute policies to reduce impact



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Is The School Environment Conducive to Good Hygiene?

Accessible soap, paper towels & sinks

Breaks for hand hygiene

Incentives for hand hygiene

Sanitary, health & safety inspections of the school

Healthy Schools, Healthy People: It's a Snap program www.itsasnap.org



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Infectious Diseases Policies

Written Policies Needed by Schools

- Environmental hygiene
- Inclusion & exclusion for students/staff illnesses
- Notification of local health authorities of certain communicable diseases

American Academy of Pediatrics. *Managing Infectious Diseases in Child Care and Schools: A Quick Reference Guide*. 2005;13



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Preparedness

Constructing a plan to properly handle a situation prior to its occurrence.

- * District level
- * School level

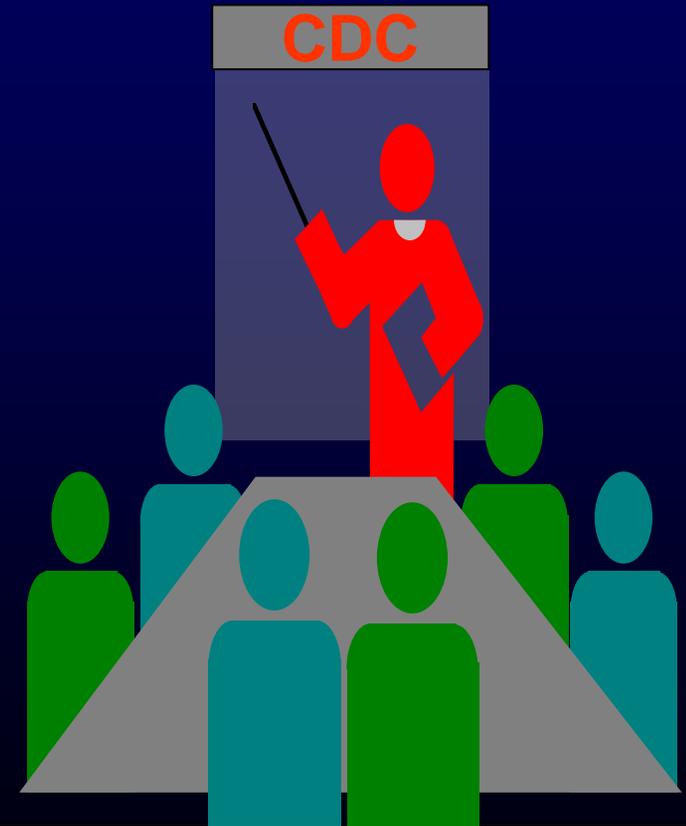


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Preparedness

1. Identify district-level teams to develop the management plan
2. Identify the authority for declaring a public health emergency
3. Coordinate the local/state health department/emergency responders ensuring compatibility



Preparedness

Identify process and procedures for:

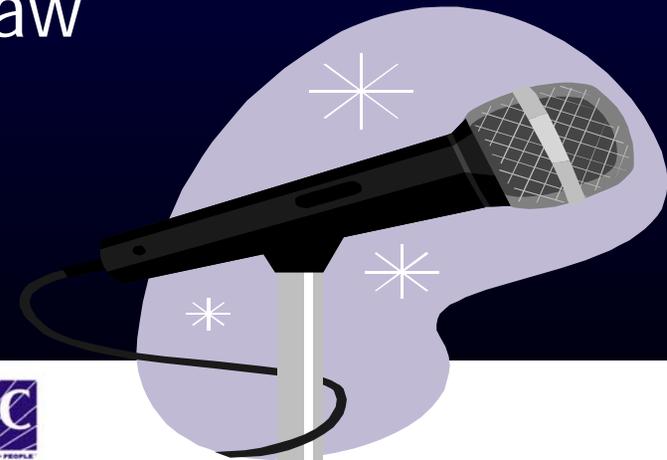
- Continuity of student learning
- Core operations
- Communication



Preparedness

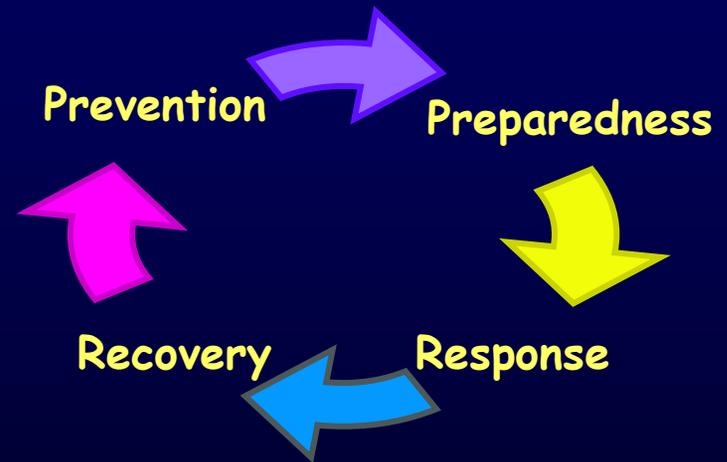
Create and test an effective means of communication with staff, students, families and the media

- Determine a mechanism on how to instruct students and staff on what to do
- Determine means of communication
 - Cell phones, radios, intercoms, e-mails etc
- Develop partnerships with media, community agencies and law enforcement



Response

Executing the plan that was produced prior to the crisis.



Recovery

To return the environment back to its normal conditions, as early as possible



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Questions?

