Meeting the Need for Surge Capacity at U.S. Ports of Entry

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The SARS Experience

- Visual inspection: 2.7 million passengers on 11,000 flights
  - Travel Health Alert Notice distribution: 5,000 travelers per day entering United States across 15 land borders
- Primarily CDC staff
  - Deployed to 8 Quarantine Stations and 23 additional U.S. locations
  - Served from 2 weeks to 30 days
  - Worked 12 hour shifts, 7 days/week in the early phase

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SARS Lessons Learned
Relevance for Pandemic Planning

- Early detection vital to limiting spread
- Speed and volume of air travel increases likelihood of global spread of disease
- Established chain of command is needed
- Clear communication vital
- Ongoing education and training of public health personnel is critical
- Local resources should be used as surge capacity staff

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Pandemic Influenza Strategy: Border and Travel Responses

- **Basic activities (WHO Phases 1-4)**
  - Travel advisories and alerts
  - Passive and targeted screening at border
  - Responding to ill passengers

- **Enhanced activities (WHO Phases 5-6)**
  - Entry and (possibly) exit screening
  - Isolation of ill passengers/quarantine of contacts
  - Conditional release of low-risk contacts
  - Distribution of Travel Health Alert Notices
  - Restriction of nonessential travel

By the Numbers: Current Capacities

Ports of Entry	**326**
CBP Staff	**20,000**
Quarantine Stations	**20**
CDC Staff	**100**

Sources: Securing America's Borders at Ports of Entry, Office of Field Operations Strategic Plan FY 2007-2011. Customs and Border Protection. Accessed at: www.cbp.gov

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By the Numbers: Anticipated Pandemic Surge Needs

Airports	1,400–1,800 staff
Land borders	575–850 staff
Shifts	3 x 8 hours
Deployment	up to 4 weeks

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Potential Sources of Surge Capacity Staff

- CDC
- U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps
- Department of Health and Human Services
  - National Disaster Medical System (NDMS)
  - Regional Emergency Centers (REC)
  - HHS Regional and CDC HQ
- State and local health departments

Desired Characteristics of Surge Capacity Staff

- Flexible
- Able to work with diverse populations
- Accepts potential risk of exposure
- Physically able to stand/sit for long periods
- Can work long hours
- Willing to relocate for duration of assignment, up to 4 weeks

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Surge Capacity Potential Duties

- Visually screen arriving travelers and crew
- Check temperatures
- Distribute Travel Health Alert Notices
- Hand out screening forms and assist with completion

- Implement rapid diagnostic testing of travelers and crew members
- Perform other duties as assigned

Surge Capacity Training Activities

Pre-event

- Stand-up training
- Web-based course
- On-site station introduction

During an event

- Just-In-Time training
  - On-site at Quarantine Station

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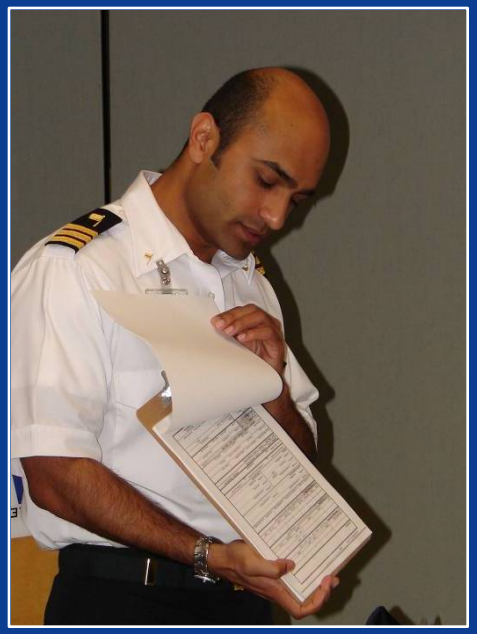
Stand-up Training

2005 – Miami Quarantine Station & Florida Department of Health

2006 – Detroit Quarantine Station & University of Michigan Center for Public Health Preparedness



- **Multiday in-person trainings**
- **Trained 80 participants, primarily local health department staff**
- **Explored basics of the quarantine network, avian flu, and responding to illness reports**

Web-based Course

CDC & University of Michigan Center for Public Health Preparedness

- Free, online 10-module course
- Ideal method for reaching many audiences spread across United States
- Incorporates elements of stand-up trainings
- Technology allows for tracking learners
  - Can chart number trained and their geographic location
  - May be used to “call up” surge staff

Web-based Course Content

Modules exploring the essentials of

- Quarantine, isolation, and legal authorities
- Infectious diseases and surveillance
- Personal protective equipment and infection control
- Surge capacity duties
  - Including a Visual Screening Simulation

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Web-based Course Lessons Learned

- Training needs can drive policy development
- Learning management technology can be used to control module access
- Get buy-in early from stakeholders and leadership
- Be flexible and generous with timeline

Web-based Course Next Steps

- Pilot test course and revise content
- Market finished version to target audience
- Develop Just-in-Time training at Quarantine Stations
- Develop facilitator guide for on-site training

Questions?

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