



Issue 4  
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## Exercise Makgill: It's a wrap!

The New Zealand health sector got a taste of what it might be like to deal with a cluster of pandemic influenza during Exercise Makgill on November 9.

Steve Brazier, the Ministry of Health's National Coordinator of Pandemic Planning says, "Both the Ministry and DHBs have spent the last 2 years or so developing paper based plans and Exercise Makgill was about taking part of those plans and seeing how they worked in reality.

We knew that the day would throw up a lot of issues and reveal areas in need of further development, that was the purpose of the day.

The feedback we've received from those involved tells us that participants found the exercise a very useful learning experience."

All the feedback received from participants and evaluators is now being compiled into a final report which is due to be released in January 2007.

## Red Cross Role Players



Red Cross volunteer Derek Robinson

If a flu pandemic struck New Zealand, would you need to kill your hens? If a student was affected, would the whole school have to be shut down?

New Zealand Red Cross volunteers recently had the opportunity to put these questions to the Ministry of Health and District Health Boards around the country as part of Exercise Makgill.

The Red Cross volunteers at the Wellington call centre took on diverse personas for the exercise, including reporters, kaumatua, high school principals and concerned members of the public.

Derek Robinson, who usually volunteers for the Red Cross as a Meals on Wheels driver, says that taking on the personas was the most fun part of the exercise. When initially asked for his name, he replied: "Which name do you want? I've got about 60 at the moment!"

At times, he says he found his persona a little too convincing. "I rang up as a Radio New Zealand Reporter and they put me through to the media liaison officer, who was in conference with another Radio New Zealand reporter. I refrained from suggesting that the other person was an imposter!"

Our sincere thanks to the New Zealand Red Cross for their support.

# Exercise Cruickshank dates announced

Next in the programme of exercises around pandemic influenza is Exercise Cruickshank, which consists of four exercises. Each exercise will practice a separate stage of the New Zealand Influenza Pandemic Action Plan (NZIPAP). The stages are:

## Keep It Out

This stage aims to use border management to prevent, or delay to the greatest extent possible, the arrival of the pandemic virus into New Zealand.

## Stamp It Out

This stage aims to control and/or eliminate any clusters that may be found in New Zealand.

## Manage It

This stage involves multiple clusters at separate locations, or clusters spreading out of control. To reduce the impact of pandemic influenza on New Zealand's population.

## Recover From It

This stage involves the recovery of population health, communities and society where affected by the pandemic, pandemic management measures, or disruption to normal services.

## Cruickshank 1

Thursday 10 May 2007  
Time TBC

## Cruickshank 2

Wednesday 16 May 2007  
0800 - Starts

## Cruickshank 3

Thursday 17 May 2007  
- 1600 Finishes

## Cruickshank 4

Wednesday 23 May 2007  
1000 - 1600

## Upcoming Events

### 7 December 2006

Central Region  
Health Co-ordinating Executive Group (HCEG) Meeting  
- Debrief on Exercise Makgill and presentation on Exercise Cruickshank

### 7 December 2006

Northern and Midland Region  
Health Co-ordinating Executive Group (HCEG) Meeting  
- Presentation on Exercise Makgill

### 13 December 2006

Southern Region  
Health Co-ordinating Executive Group (HCEG) Meeting  
- Presentation on Exercise Makgill

### 24 January 2007

Ministry of Health  
Workshop with DHBs  
Wellington

### 10 May

Exercise Cruickshank 1  
'Keep It Out'

### 16-17 May

Exercise Cruickshank 2 & 3  
'Stamp It Out' and 'Manage It'

### 23 May

Exercise Cruickshank 4  
'Recover From It'

## Feedback

We welcome your feedback on this newsletter and on anything and everything to do with the Pandemic Exercise Programme.

If you know of any innovative and creative approaches to pandemic planning in your region we would love to publish them in upcoming issues.

Please feel free to e-mail us on: [birdflu@moh.govt.nz](mailto:birdflu@moh.govt.nz)



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