



Issue 2
17 October 2006

Regional Planning / CBAC Workshop



District Health Board representatives and Ministry of Health staff gathered in Wellington last week to discuss progress on pandemic planning projects.

Each regional group presented on their pandemic planning, including plans for Community Based Assessment Centres (CBACs).

The day was positive, giving each regional group the opportunity to share innovative ideas and discuss

solutions to common issues with their peers.

The day was also an opportunity for the Ministry to update DHBs on purchasing pandemic supplies, public health planning and Exercise Makgill. The Ministry also responded to questions on a variety of issues such as telephone triage, minimum pandemic dataset, clinical pathways and funding.

Midland Region HCEG meeting

Friday 13 October

The Ministry of Health was invited to speak at the Midland Region Health Co-ordinating Executive Group (HCEG) Meeting last Friday.

John Boyd from the Exercise Makgill project team, gave an update on the Exercise's aims, objectives, scope and scenario, and provided information on how the exercise day itself would be run.

The Ministry's Exercise Makgill project team are looking forward to attending the Southern, Central and Northern meetings at the end of this week.

19 October 2006
Southern Region
Health Co-ordinating Executive
Group (HCEG) Meeting

20 October 2006
Central Region
Health Co-ordinating Executive
Group (HCEG) Meeting

20 October 2006
Northern Region
Health Co-ordinating Executive
Group (HCEG) Meeting

Profile

Exercise Director John Ayling



We are fortunate to have John Ayling on board as National Exercise Director. John has a remarkable breadth of knowledge and experience within the New Zealand health sector and is a significant addition to our team.

John is presently self employed and provides services to health-related organisations.

Previous roles have included senior management positions in the health sector in New Zealand and Australia. These have included appointments at Capital and Coast Health, Chief Executive of Healthcare Otago and more recently at Ambulance New Zealand.

John has also served on a number of governing boards as either a trustee or director. He is currently Chair of the Ministry of Health's Pandemic Influenza Reference Committee (PIRC), which assesses the capability of the health sector to manage an influenza pandemic. A more recent appointment has been as Chair of the West Coast Primary Health Organisation.

Exercise Makgill information online



An Exercise Makgill website has been created for exercise participants. On this site are electronic versions of the Participant Handbooks. More information will be added closer to the time of the exercise and on the day of the exercise itself.

The site's address is confidential and will be provided to DHB emergency planners, public health service managers and medical officers of health who can forward details on to participants in their region at their discretion.

The address can also be obtained from:

Nikki Hooper

Exercise Co-ordinator

Nikki_Hooper@moh.govt.nz

More general information about the Exercise Programme, including past copies of this newsletter are available on the Ministry of Health website:

<http://www.moh.govt.nz/moh.nsf/indexmh/pandemicinfluenza-exerciseprogramme>

The site will be updated as frequently as possible so add it to your favourites!

Exercise Roles and Terminology

The nature and scope of Exercise Makgill will require the involvement of a number of people to control and facilitate play throughout the Exercise. The following groups of people are vital to the running and success of Exercise Makgill.

National Exercise Control

1 The Terrace

The National Health Coordination Centre (NHCC) will be established at the Ministry of Health, 1 The Terrace, Wellington.

National Exercise Control will also be located here with Exercise Director, John Ayling, and Exercise Control staff as well as Ministry of Health Exercise participants.

Exercise Controllers

Exercise Controllers ensure that Exercise aims and objectives are met, and will work with and direct other exercise control team (EXCON) members.

Exercise Controllers also liaise between National Exercise Control in Wellington and regional and local Exercise Control.

In some cases, the Controller may also perform the role of the Facilitator.

Exercise Facilitator

The Exercise Facilitator ensures that progress is being made on the Exercise. They will work with the Ministry and role players to solve problems that may hamper progress, particularly those problems generated by the artificial nature of the exercise.

The Exercise Controller may assign the Facilitator to a specific exercise response area, function or team.

In some cases, the Controller may also perform the role of the Facilitator.

Exercise Evaluators

Exercise Evaluators observe the exercise players, note any actions taken and evaluate the results of these actions.

The evaluation process will benefit each DHB. The Ministry will collate a general report on the response of the sector of a whole, which will be based on the individual reports, from each DHB.

Evaluators for DHBs and their public health services will be given with all the tools required to carry out their role, and will be trained before the exercise.

In some cases, the Facilitator may also perform the role of the Evaluator.

Exercise Participants

Exercise Participants will respond to events according to the Exercise scenario. Participants will be working from designated incident rooms/operations centres or their normal places of work.

Role Players

Role Players will help create realism in certain situations.

Among these may be a group of role-played media who will test communications staff both within the Ministry and DHBs via a series of media questions and requests for information.

Suspect cases may also be role-played.



Exercise Makgill Participant Handbooks

Participant Handbooks for Exercise Makgill are being assembled as we speak and are due in letterboxes during this week.

A limited number of hard copy folders are being sent to DHB Emergency Planners and Incident Controllers but the electronic files are available to all exercise participants either via email or by downloading it from the Exercise Makgill website.

The handbooks contain:

- Evaluation Strategy
- Sequence of Events
- Communications Strategy
- Evaluation Report Outline
- Observer Programme
- Information Technology Directory
- Glossary

Upcoming Events

Week of 16 October

Participant Handbooks available

19 October 2006

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

20 October 2006

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

20 October 2006

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

24 October

Exercise Control handbooks available

25/26 October

Medical Officers of Health meeting in Wellington
- Presentation on Exercise Makgill

26 October

First Exercise inject

9 November

Exercise Makgill

0800 - Start

1800 - Finish

1800-1900 - Hot Debrief

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



MANATŪ HAUORA