



# Anoka County CHES Frequently Asked Questions

## Role of Faith Communities in Pandemic Planning

Questions answered by the Disease Prevention and Control section of Anoka County  
Community Health and Environmental Services Department

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**Q: What can Faith-based organizations do right now to prepare for a pandemic?**

A: Preparing for a pandemic is as important as preparing for any disaster. There are several things faith – based organizations can do. First, ensure that your organization is prepared for a pandemic by completing the Faith-Based and Community Organization checklist at [www.pandemicflu.gov](http://www.pandemicflu.gov). Next, encourage individuals you serve to take action to prepare by disseminating information on preparedness. Finally, disseminate accurate information by staying informed. Information about the current status of avian (H5N1) flu can be found at the following websites:

- ❑ [www.ReadyAnokaCounty.us](http://www.ReadyAnokaCounty.us)
- ❑ [www.pandemicflu.gov](http://www.pandemicflu.gov)
- ❑ [www.who.int](http://www.who.int)

Additionally, promote health behaviors that prevent the spread of disease by encouraging individuals to: cover their cough, wash their hands, and stay home if they are sick. Post hand-washing stickers in areas where hand washing is available and hang posters that promote proper cough etiquette. Hand washing stickers are available through Anoka County Community Health and Environmental Services Department at no cost to you. Just call 763-422-6965 and we will be happy to send them to you. Cover Your Cough posters are available online from the Minnesota Department of Health at [www.health.state.mn.us](http://www.health.state.mn.us) just type cover your cough in the search field.

**Q: How can I pass preparedness information on to individuals in my faith community?**

A: Preparedness information can be disseminated by a variety of methods. Newsletter articles serve the purpose of getting peoples attention and can direct them to resources available to help them prepare. Additional resources to encourage preparedness include brochure and posters. Sample newsletter articles and posters are available at [www.ReadyAnokaCounty.us](http://www.ReadyAnokaCounty.us) just click Partnering to Prepare a Community. Brochures can be found online at [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov).

**Q: What can faith – based organizations expect from public health?**

A: Anoka County Community Health and Environmental Services Department will work with faith organizations and the community in general to provide clear, accurate, and consistent information on emergency preparedness. We will also keep you informed of relevant resources and opportunities where faith communities might play a role in preparing for and responding to a disaster such as a pandemic.