

**TOWN OF SOMERS
CIVIL PREPAREDNESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING**

Wednesday, September 9, 2009

7:30 a.m.

Somers Firehouse

1. **Call to Order:** The Civil Preparedness Advisory Committee meeting was called to order by Joe Tolisano at 7:34 a.m.
2. **Members Present:** Joe Tolisano, David Pinney, Mike Provencher, Bill Boutwell, Frank Falcone, Ed Pagani, Dan Thayer, Terri Henderson, Maynard Suffredini, Sgt Jose Claudio

Others Present: Jeremy Plossay (*North Central District Health Department*) Bill Blitz (*Director, North Central District Health Department*), Marcia Mitchell (*recording*), Dr. Segool, *Health Director Town of Somers*, Steve Jacobs, *Sanitarian Town of Somers*, Carol Meagher (*Somers Schools nurse*), Judith Snyder (*Somers Health and Wellness Association*, Elaine Masterson, RN (*Somers VNA*), Peter DeBrino (*Somers CERT Team*)

3. **H1N1 Update**

Bill Blitz and Jeremy Plossay of the North Central District Health Department shared current information on the H1N1 virus. They stressed information is changing daily. The following was shared: thorough cleaning of the schools is not necessary, virus lives 3-4 hours on surface. A vaccine is in testing with 5 offshore manufacturers. At this time they recommend two shots per person, three weeks to one month apart. Possible mass vaccination at school. It is likely there will be a shortage of vaccine. Groups have been prioritized: pregnant women, up to age 6 and caretakers, 7-24 age group. Ambulance staff the only emergency staff eligible for the vaccine. Hospitals will do typing when person hospitalized, it will not be done otherwise.

The group discussed the protocol for mass inoculation. The Health Department does not have a plan for the town. The town should be prepared, put together a plan and stay flexible. Discussed contacting local physicians, training children on hand washing. Nurses must identify sick children, separate and send home. They must be the gatekeeper when the child returns. They should have no fever for 24 hours prior to their return. The Board of Education can send questions to the state. Suggested ordering extra hand sanitizer and hand towels as supplies may be low if the flu spreads quickly. Information obtained regarding the flu will be put on the front page of the school website and town website with links to the CDC. Discussed if accurate information is not given, rumors begin to create issues. The Health Department recommended getting posters from their department and placing

them throughout the schools. The Health Department asked for one email to communicate information to. (Marcia Mitchell gave her email and will forward all correspondence to Joe Tolisano, Dr. Suffredini and Steve Jacobs, Town Sanitarian). The Health Department also suggested viewing the video "School Based Clinics". They will forward website address.

Dr. Suffredini, Joe Tolisano, Dr. Segool and a representative from the Health and Wellness Association will meet Tuesday, September 15 in the Superintendent's office to begin putting together a plan for the Town of Somers to include identifying priority groups, establish procedure for inoculations, determine who is distributing vaccine, compile list of active licensed RN's. They will also discuss communicating with daycares on protocol.

4. Continuity of Operations Plan

Joe Tolisano stated there are many phone numbers and emails missing in the plan. Dr. Suffredini and other committee members will review the plan and forward appropriate information to Joe Tolisano.

5. Approval of 8/7/09 Minutes

It was MOVED (M. Suffredini) and SECONDED (Mike Provencher) PASSED (10-0) to approve the 8/7/09 meeting minutes.

6. Adjournment

It was MOVED (M. Suffredini) and SECONDED (D. Pinney) PASSED (10-0) to adjourn the Civil Preparedness Advisory Committee meeting at 8:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Terri Henderson
Secretary

Minutes are not official until approved by Civil Preparedness Advisory Committee.