



Government of Saint Lucia

National Influenza Plan
Volume 7: Law Enforcement, Public
Safety, and Security

Based on the US Influenza Pandemic Strategy Chapter 8 Law Enforcement, Public Safety, and Security

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Preamble

NATIONAL INFLUENZA PLAN

The National Influenza Pandemic Preparedness Plan is a collection of Documents as listed below.

The procedures are supported by the Saint Lucia National Emergency Management Plans, Policies, Legislation and Standard Operating Procedures.

Volume

1. Concept of Operations
2. Strategic Plan
3. Communications Strategy
4. Ministry of Health Plan
5. Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Plan
6. Ministry of Education Plan
7. Law Enforcement, Public Safety, and Security
8. Essential Services
 - a. Ministry of the Public Service
 - b. Transportation Sector
 - c. Saint Lucia Fire Service
 - d. LUCELEC
 - e. Digicel
 - f. LIME
 - g. WASCO
 - h. SLASPA

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Introduction

If a pandemic influenza outbreak occurs in Saint Lucia, it is essential that governmental entities at all levels continue to provide essential public safety services and maintain public order. It is critical that all stakeholders in law enforcement and public safety agencies, whose primary responsibility this is, be fully prepared to support public health efforts and to address the additional challenges they may face during such an outbreak. Law Enforcement Officials should be prepared to assist in a lawful and appropriate manner, and all involved should be familiar with the established protocols for seeking such assistance and have validated plans to provide that assistance.

Response Planning

It is essential that as part of the overall pandemic response planning, the respective law enforcement and public safety agencies formulate comprehensive response plans based on in-depth understanding of the salient facts regarding a potential influenza outbreak and the related issues. The plans should establish close coordination and communications protocols between law enforcement and public safety agencies and public health and medical officials. Responsible elected officials, emergency management officials, public health officials, and members of the law enforcement and emergency response communities should then undergo training related to the execution of their plans and participate in exercises and other activities to ensure their ability to execute their plan if necessary. Such exercises will raise their awareness of the pertinent issues and initiate dialogue concerning issues such as interagency cooperation, incident command, and agency-specific roles and responsibilities during a pandemic influenza outbreak.

As part of the planning process, outreach and coordination should also be conducted with respect to private sector entities responsible for safeguarding and sustaining critical infrastructure during an outbreak. It is essential that the services provided by these entities continue without interruption and that those private sector personnel responsible for providing security develop plans to continue to provide security despite the effects pandemic influenza will have on their respective workforces and the understanding that the availability of law enforcement resources to respond or otherwise assist may be limited.

Understanding the Legal Framework

Because emergency management in public health emergencies will depend heavily on the effective use of relevant legal authorities, public health, law enforcement, and emergency management officials, and fire and EMS first responders will benefit from joint training on the legal authorities essential to effective response in public health emergencies before the emergency occurs. While significant progress has been made over the year, in strengthening the National Response Mechanism protocols and linkages among the key components of public health, emergency management, law enforcement, and emergency response communities, an influenza pandemic will present new challenges, and it is important that all concerned understand their roles and the governing legal authorities so that they can coordinate their efforts under a complex set of laws. All Agencies should review their legal authorities to respond to an influenza pandemic, identify needed changes in the law, and pursue legislative action as appropriate.

Protecting Law Enforcement and Public Safety Personnel

Ensuring the health and safety of law enforcement officers and others who may be called upon to respond in a pandemic influenza outbreak or any other public health emergency is critical. The law enforcement and public safety community should take appropriate protective measures to minimize their risk of infection, and selected personnel should be provided training to ensure they are knowledgeable about these measures. Law enforcement personnel should obtain immunizations or other prophylaxis in accordance with the priorities established for the circumstance in the event quantities are limited.

Continuity of Operations

Agencies should have continuity plans to ensure essential services are provided if significant numbers of their employees become ill during the outbreak as well as if disruptions in other sectors they depend on occur. Ideally such plans should address issues such as the reassignment of personnel to perform critical functions, encouraging personnel to have plans to take care of their families while they are assigned to critical functions, and determining at what point it would be necessary to seek additional assistance.

Law Enforcement Response During an Outbreak

During the course of a pandemic influenza outbreak, law enforcement and public safety agencies will be conducting operations in accordance with their established plans and protocols. It is possible that the National Emergency Management Plan will be activated and it is likely that operations will be coordinated through emergency operations centers.

The Law Enforcement Role in Containment

The Chief Medical Officer has statutory authority to order a quarantine to prevent the introduction, transmission, or spread of communicable diseases from foreign countries into Saint Lucia.”

Air Transportation modes

The Saint Lucia Air and Seaports Authority [SLASPA] can order air carriers not to enter Saint Lucian airspace (e.g., to keep airspace clear for rescue operations). If SLASPA determines that an emergency exists related to safety in air commerce that requires immediate action, they may prescribe regulations and issue orders immediately to meet that emergency.

Persons Arriving From Foreign Countries and Traveling Between Islands

Pursuant to regulations, the CMO may quarantine individuals arriving from foreign countries or another island who are reasonably believed to be infected with or exposed to any of the communicable diseases specified by the World Health Organisation. In addition, CMO may quarantine individuals reasonably believed to be infected with or exposed to such diseases and traveling from one Island into another.

Pandemic Plans

The Agency's Pandemic Plans are stand alone documents which form part of this National Influenza Pandemic Preparedness Response Plan which in turn is part of the National Emergency Response Plan.

The Agency's Pandemic Plans may be obtained from the respective institution upon request.