## News From the Wyoming Department of Health

Friday, March 3, 2006

## Pandemic Flu Summit to Feature HHS Secretary Mike Leavitt

CHEYENNE –U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Mike Leavitt will join Wyoming Governor Dave Freudenthal and Department of Health Director Dr. Brent Sherard as featured speakers during the Wyoming Pandemic Flu Summit March 10 in Cheyenne.

The summit's agenda includes practical discussions of pandemic flu planning and potential impacts in Wyoming. Local, state and national experts will provide information and lead question and answer sessions.

Pandemic flu is a global outbreak of influenza disease from a new influenza virus that is unlike past viruses. Because most or all people will not have any natural immunity to a new pandemic virus, a pandemic virus can spread rapidly around the world. Influenza pandemics occur naturally, and it is not possible to predict accurately when influenza pandemics will occur or how severe they will be.

"Awareness and planning are the best tools at our disposal when it comes to pandemic flu preparation," Dr. Sherard said. "Anyone involved in community planning and preparedness for health and medical concerns should find these sessions to be helpful."

The summit is scheduled March 10 from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Little America Hotel and Resort in Cheyenne. To register, visit http://outreach.uwyo.edu/conferences/calendar or call 877-733-3618 ext. 1.

For those not able to travel to Cheyenne to participate, a live broadcast of the summit will be available in a number of video conferencing sites around the state. For more information, please call the Wyoming Department of Health Planning Committee at (307) 777-8735

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