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**For Immediate Release**

**DMAPS and DHHR leading state pandemic flu efforts**

The West Virginia Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety/Homeland Security and the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources are currently coordinating and leading state public safety and public health efforts related to the current pandemic influenza concerns.

DMAPS role, in addition to helping DHHR coordinate public information dissemination, is to manage and coordinate the delivery of assets and resources across multiple state and local agencies as necessary.

As the lead state emergency management and state homeland security agency, DMAPS is responsible for leading the efforts related to Continuity of Operations and Continuity of Government planning. These measures ensure essential and vital services can be continued during emergency situations.

Emergencies typically do not allow for preparation time. The situation related to West Virginia currently provides an opportunity to quickly and efficiently review all operational measures related to pandemic flu and emergencies in general.

Furthermore, individuals are encouraged to practice personal protective measures and businesses and agencies are further encouraged to ensure they have operational plans related to pandemic influenza. For businesses, the ability to continue operations and provide services is critical to the effectiveness of public safety and public health responses.

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Information related to the current situation as well as other preparedness and emergency response issues can be found on the social networking tool twitter.

Persons interested in signing up to receive the information can sign up to follow the messages on twitter.com with the user wvdhsem. The information is also available by logging on to the division's web site at [www.wvdhsem.gov](http://www.wvdhsem.gov) and selecting follow me on twitter. Additionally, links to current information related to pandemic influenza can be found on the DMAPS home page at [www.wvdmaps.gov](http://www.wvdmaps.gov).

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