

State of Maine



Proclamation of a Civil Emergency Due to a Highly Infectious Agent

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Office of the Governor of the State of Maine and pursuant to relevant portions of 37-B M.R.S.A. §§ 741, 742 & 824, I, John Baldacci, Governor of the State of Maine, issue this Proclamation of a Civil Emergency as follows:

1. Background and Need

On April 26, 2009, the federal Department of Health and Human Services declared that a nationwide public health emergency existed, due to the Swine Influenza A Virus (now referred to as the H1N1 Influenza Virus). Today, April 29, 2009, the same highly infectious agent, H1N1 Influenza Virus, that poses an imminent threat of death or disease among humans, has been reported in Kennebec and York Counties, Maine. This event constitutes a civil emergency. As a result of the presence in Maine of H1N1 Influenza Virus, an emergency exists, exposing a great number of people to potential disease. An imminent threat of widespread exposure to H1N1 Influenza Virus requires extraordinary measures to contain the spread of the disease, treat the victims, and protect the public health. These current conditions constitute a threat to the safety and welfare of the State, and constitute a civil emergency or disaster within the meaning of the relevant emergency management statutes.

2. Mission and Scope

To respond to the current public health emergency, I order and declare the following:

- A. A state of disaster exists, caused by the public health emergency.
- B. Activation of the Maine Pandemic Influenza Plan (Plan).
- C. The Commissioner of the Department of Health and Human Services shall immediately convene the Governor's Response Committee which shall meet and advise me regarding appropriate actions to meet the current emergency.
- D. The State activation elements of the Maine National Guard as may be determined from time to time by the Maine Emergency Management Agency ("MEMA").
- E. The expenditure of funds from the State Disaster Emergency Fund and the transfer of unexpended surplus funds from all State agencies to meet emergency needs, pursuant to 37-B M.R.S.A. § 824. All funds currently held in the State Disaster Emergency Fund shall remain within that Fund beyond termination of the State fiscal year and shall remain within that fund until expended or until further proclamation.
- F. All State departments and agencies shall take whatever actions may be required and requested by the Bureau of Health within the Plan, to respond to this emergency. A record of such actions, if any, shall be compiled and presented to me by the heads of the affected departments and agencies on a reasonable and timely basis throughout the duration of this Proclamation.
- G. The Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Maine CDC) and MEMA shall coordinate application to the federal government for funds related to responding to this disaster and mitigating its effects.

3. Duration

This Emergency Proclamation shall expire thirty (30) days from the date of its signature, unless rescinded or extended by subsequent action of the Executive.

Given under my hand,
this 29th Day of April, 2009.


John E. Baldacci
Governor