JOINT DECLARATION OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
AND
THE SECRETARIAT OF HEALTH
OF THE UNITED MEXICAN STATES
REGARDING
COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF PANDEMIC INFLUENZA
PREPAREDNESS

The Department of Health and Human Services of the United States of America (HHS) and the Secretariat of Health of the United Mexican States (SSA),

Realizing influenza pandemics have occurred three times in the last century, and history and science suggest that our countries and the world could face one or more pandemics in this century;

Recognizing a pandemic can cause severe illness, death, and disruption throughout the world, and outbreaks can occur in many different locations all at the same time;

Understanding preparation for an influenza pandemic requires coordinated action at all levels of government and all sectors of society, including businesses, schools, faith-based and community organizations, families, and individuals;

Acknowledging the Governments of the United States of America and the United Mexican States are coordinating their respective multi-sector national responses, which include the monitoring of international and domestic outbreaks, and the provision of funding and technical assistance to their States to foster preparedness, stockpiling, and distributing countermeasures and developing new treatments, as appropriate;

Realizing the Governments of the United States of America and the United Mexican States, and their respective political subdivisions, are responsible under their own authorities for responding to an outbreak within their own jurisdictions and for having comprehensive pandemic preparedness plans and measures in place to protect their citizens; and

Appreciating the special characteristics and dynamics of the 2,000-mile border shared between the United States and México and the existing collaboration between the HHS and SSA through such venues as the Security and Prosperity Partnership, the

Issue this Joint Declaration:

HHS and SSA, the State Health Departments of the ten United States and México border States and the United States-México Border Health Commission, share common goals and interest in influenza planning and preparedness while recognizing independent Federal/State responsibilities for influenza planning and preparedness, as well as respective strengths and roles.

HHS and SSA intend to lend their leadership to, and work together with, the State health departments of the ten United States and México border States and the United States-México Border Health Commission on border pandemic influenza preparedness in order to enable strong community response, effective surveillance, and sustainable systems of communication and information sharing for the well-being and protection of U.S. and Mexican citizens who reside along our border.

Such measures should include preparedness plans that are continuously exercised and updated to make sure they work and to achieve a stronger level of preparedness, and pandemic preparedness that help communities deal with any type of medical emergency and have lasting benefits for the health of any Nation.

SIGNED this ____________ day of ____________________________, 2006.

______________________________  ______________________________
FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH FOR THE SECRETARIAT OF
AND HUMAN SERVICES OF THE HEALTH OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA UNITED MEXICAN STATES
Witnessed by:

State of Arizona          State of Baja California

State of California       State of Chihuahua

State of Coahuila         State of New Mexico

State of Nuevo Leon       State of Sonora

State of Tamaulipas       State of Texas