



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**EMBARGOED UNTIL
MONDAY, 9/11**

Health and Safety Officials Launch Public Awareness Campaign, Website

PRESS CONFERENCE SEPTEMBER 11

**Stock 2 for Flu Website Urges Citizens, Businesses, Social Service
Agencies and Faith-Based Organizations to Stock Up and Plan**

The Champaign-Urbana Public Health District, American Red Cross Central Illinois Chapter, Champaign County Emergency Management Agency and Champaign County Public Health Department have teamed up to help Champaign County prepare for a possible avian influenza (bird flu) pandemic or other emergency.

The Stock 2 for Flu campaign begins with a press conference at 10:30 a.m. on Monday, September 11 at the Champaign County Emergency Management Agency, 1905 E. Main St., in Urbana. At that event, health and safety officials and the mayors or village presidents of Champaign, Urbana, Ogden, St. Joseph, Sidney and Gifford will urge their citizens to play a role in emergency preparedness.

While bird flu is not easily spread from person to person, health experts believe that the avian influenza virus could change in ways that allow it to become much more infectious among humans. Should this occur, the disease could become a global threat. If bird flu or other deadly infectious disease were to appear in Champaign County, health and safety officials would probably ask most people to remain at home for an extended period of days or weeks, until the threat could be contained.

The Stock 2 for Flu campaign urges all citizens to prepare for this or other emergencies by stockpiling food, water, medicines and supplies, so that they can remain at home for an extended period of time during an emergency. A new website, www.stock2forflu.com offers detailed information about

emergency planning for families, children, businesses, schools, social service agencies and faith-based organizations.

The website includes:

- Sample emergency plans for home, office and school
- Stockpile checklists,
- Emergency contact lists,
- Flyers on hand washing and hygiene for families, businesses and schools,
- Stock 2 for Flu shelf tags and posters that stores can print and use,
- Links to emergency websites for children with interactive games and puzzles,
- Lists of local food pantries and faith-based organizations,
- Advice for social service agencies and faith-based organizations about how to help the people they serve,
- Detailed information about emergency preparedness at the school or work site,
- Information for businesses about how to continue operations during emergencies.

Please go to www.stock2forflu.com for more details.

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