

FBIIC/FSSCC Pandemic Flu Exercise

www.fspanfluexercise.com

September 24- October 10, 2007

A Private Sector-Public Sector Partnership to –

- ✓ *Enhance the understanding of systemic risks to the financial sector*
- ✓ *Provide an opportunity for firms to test their pandemic plans*
- ✓ *Examine how the effect of a pandemic flu on other critical infrastructures will impact financial services*

What Is the Problem? How Great is the Threat?

- **Pandemic Flu** -- A potential global outbreak of influenza which is transmissible from person to person and causes serious illness for which there is little natural immunity and limited prepared vaccine.

“Our institutions perform services that are literally the nerve center of our economy – processing payments, providing credits, and storing the wealth of individuals, businesses, and non profit institutions. It is not just our financial well-being, but the financial health of the American – and indeed the global – economy that would be at stake in the event of a severe pandemic.”

– *Interim Report, Financial Services Roundtable, Blue Ribbon Commission on Mega-Catastrophes*

How Flexible Are Your Plans?

- ***The crisis you plan for is not necessarily the one you will face.***
- *Continuity plans* traditionally focus on disruptions like earthquakes and hurricanes that are limited in time, place, and even in impact.
- A pandemic will be widely dispersed and affect more than one location.
- It could last several months and hit in waves. Absenteeism could be massive and protracted.
- All normal conditions and operating relationships potentially will be disrupted. On-hand assets may have to do, at times at least.
- Local decisions, not federal, may exert a critical influence on plan operations.

What Advantages Do the FSSCC and the FBIIC Offer in this Pandemic Flu Exercise?

- An opportunity to test your financial sector organization's continuity pandemic plans in an exercise planned by the financial services industry for the financial sector.
- Voluntary participation and free of charge.
- Open to all members of the financial services industry in the United States, representing all functions, regions and sizes. Members include securities, banking, credit unions, insurance, etc.
- Flexibility in committing resources, depending on the preferences and discretion of each participating financial sector organization.
- Automated online procedures that are designed to respect the anonymity of participating financial sector organizations. Participants will conduct the exercise from their own locations through e-mail and a secure website.

What Will the Pandemic Flu Exercise Do for Participants' Planning?

- Provide a realistic scenario presenting concerns that may arise during a pandemic causing service disruptions and impacting infrastructures upon which financial services rely (*e.g.*, telecommunications, information technology, energy and transportation, *etc.*).
- Examine key issues during a crisis, such as telecommuting, human resource management, cash management, market impacts, other strains on financial services and risk management.
- Promote identification of mission critical processes, crisis management triggers, and cascading impacts of decisions by other sectors.
- Foster strategic thinking. Aid in development of communications strategies and information sharing.
- Provide an opportunity for after action benchmarking and identification of planning gaps based on the reporting of aggregated results.
- Strengthen overall readiness for many large events.

How Will the Exercise Work?

- **Exercise participants must pre-register through the website www.fspanfluelixercise.com**
- **Prior to the September 24th commencement of the three-week exercise, general details regarding the scenario and background information on pandemic influenza will be posted to the exercise website for registered participants.**
- **On Monday, September 24th at 9:00 am (EDT), the scenario will be updated on the exercise website and a set of questions will be provided to participants to respond to by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on Wednesday.**
- **The same process will take place for the next two weeks with an updated scenario posted on the exercise website at 9 a.m. EDT each Monday, along with a set of questions to be submitted by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on Wednesday, ending October 10th.**
- **The scenario questions will generally be multiple choice questions. Response time will vary depending on the level of participant engagement in analysis, but should require no more than a minimum of 60-120 minutes. See FAQs and other information for further details, including information on after action reporting of consolidated results based on aggregated, anonymized data.**

About the Organizers

- From September 24 through October 12, [The Financial Banking Information Infrastructure Committee \(FBIIC\)](#) and the [Financial Services Sector Coordinating Council \(FSSCC\)](#) will be conducting a pandemic flu exercise for the financial services sector in the United States. The exercise is sponsored by the [US Department of the Treasury](#) and the [Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association](#).
- See www.fspanfluexercise.com
- The **Financial Services Sector Coordinating Council for Critical Infrastructure Protection and Homeland Security** is a group of more than 30 private-sector firms and financial trade associations that works to help reinforce the financial services sector's resilience against terrorist attacks and other threats to the nation's financial infrastructure. Formed in 2002, FSSCC works with the Department of Treasury, which has direct responsibility for infrastructure protection and homeland security efforts for the financial services sector, while also serving under the overall guidance of the Department for Homeland Security. www.fsscc.org
- The **Financial and Banking Information Infrastructure Committee (FBIIC)** is chartered under the President's Working Group on Financial Markets, and is charged with improving coordination and communication among financial regulators, enhancing the resiliency of the financial sector, and promoting the public/private partnership. Treasury's Assistant Secretary for Financial Institutions chairs the committee. www.fbiic.gov
- Among its duties, the **Office of Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP) and Compliance Policy, U.S. Treasury Department**, coordinates the Department's development and implementation of policies regarding: the protection of the critical infrastructure of the financial services sector, including the Department's lead agency role with respect to the financial sector. The Office staffs the FBIIC. <http://www.treas.gov/offices/domestic-finance/financial-institution/cip/>
- The **Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association** brings together the shared interests of more than 650 securities firms, banks and asset managers. SIFMA's mission is to promote policies and practices that work to expand and perfect markets, foster the development of new products and services and create efficiencies for member firms, while preserving and enhancing the public's trust and confidence in the markets and the industry. SIFMA works to represent its members' interests locally and globally. It has offices in New York, Washington D.C., and London and its associated firm, the **Asia Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association**, is based in Hong Kong. www.sifma.org