

June 16, 2006

JEFFERSONVILLE—A Town Hall meeting will be held July 13, 6:00 p.m. at Wall Street United Methodist Church in Jeffersonville, to prepare community members for the possibility of an influenza (flu) pandemic. The informational session, which will focus on emergency preparedness, is open to the public. The Clark County Pandemic Influenza Planning Council is sponsoring the event.

Public health officials view the current avian flu strain H5N1 as a cause for concern, but it has not yet evolved into a strain that can easily pass from human to human. Still, public health officials are encouraging consumers to take basic steps to prevent the spread of illness, and to prepare for a possible emergency.

A mock scenario based on actual 1917-18 Spanish Flu Pandemic numbers will be presented to show the potential impact of a pandemic on Clark County's economy and society. The Spanish Flu spread around the world in less than six months and killed 500,000-650,000 Americans.

Wall Street United Methodist Church is located on the corner of Wall St. and Chestnut. The Town Hall meeting is expected to last two hours. Light refreshments will be served compliments of Wellstone Regional Hospital. Individuals with additional questions can call the Clark County Health Department at 812-282-7521.

The Clark County Pandemic Influenza Planning Council consists of the Clark County Health Department, American Red Cross, Purdue Extension, Clark County Tobacco Prevention and Cessation, Clark Memorial Hospital, Wellstone Regional Hospital, and Greater Clark County School Corporation.