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Pandemic Influenza

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[Link to Flood Preparation, Response and Recovery Information](#)

Severe Summer Weather and Tornado Preparedness

We have had several rounds of severe summer weather including tornado warnings. Take the time to prepare yourself and your family for severe weather. [Be informed](#) -- click here to learn the key steps to plan and prepare for severe thunderstorms or tornadoes.

West Nile Virus Season Is Here

Mosquitoes have always been a nuisance but with the spread of West Nile virus, they are also an important public health concern. Although the West Nile virus mainly infects birds, it can be transmitted to humans and other animals by certain species of mosquitoes that take blood meals from both birds and humans. The bite from just one infected mosquito is all that is needed to transfer the disease. In humans, West Nile disease symptoms vary from no visible effect to flu-like symptoms, paralysis, or even death. All age groups are susceptible, but the elderly and those with weakened immune systems are more likely to experience severe forms of the disease.

The *Culex tarsalis* mosquito is the main and very effective vector of the virus in South Dakota and other western states. This mosquito often bites without being noticed and research has shown it tends to be most active in late evening.

[Public mosquito control programs](#) have been started in many cities and towns across the country. Even the best community mosquito control program will only reduce the risk from West Nile virus and thus wherever you live, [personal protection](#) against mosquito bites is your best safeguard.

Though the season has begun and will last until killing frost, research has shown the time of risk is greatest from mid-July through August. Click here to see the -- [WNV Risk Reduction Chart](#).

[Dengue fever](#) another mosquito borne illness has been found Florida, the first cases since 1945. This is a disease which has no cure and is very painful, is found mainly in the tropics and poses no threat to South Dakotans at this time (if not traveling to these areas).

BEREADYBROOKINGS RADIO SHOW

Join us the first Thursday of the month at 9:30 am on KBRK, 1430 for a live show to learn the latest on H1N1 and what folks are doing in the community to respond to pandemic influenza or any disaster. You may call-in or e-mail your questions to Bereadybrookings@yahoo.com

Pandemic Influenza

There is a new kind of disaster that has struck and that is novel H1N1, a flu virus that has been declared a pandemic. The initial outbreak in the United States was mild, but we do not know what the second wave will hold and the second wave is here now. The Centers for Disease Control estimates more than 1 million people in the US have or have had novel H1N1. **How can we prepare for the second wave?**

Help is already at your computer -- [bReady for Anything -- South Dakota Department of Health](#) and at the [South Dakota Cooperative Extension National Preparedness](#) . There are resources on these sites to help individuals, families, schools, businesses, faith-based organizations, and communities make plans, prepare, respond, and recover from pandemic influenza. Link to [South](#)

News

[BeReadyBrookings Blog](#)

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[West Nile Virus -- Extension Disaster Education Network](#)

[West Nile Virus -- South Dakota Department of Health](#)

[Pandemic Influenza Preparedness -- Extension Disaster Education Network](#)



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Web based public information developed by a five-way partnership of:

Brookings Health System

City of Brookings

Brookings County Emergency Management

Brookings County Chapter of the American Red Cross

South Dakota State University (lead for public education)

More than 90,000 hits to this community based web page in 15 months

Most hits came at height of H1N1 season

11,000 hits to flood information

2,000 hits for severe winter weather (blizzards and ice storms)

Current educational focus is West Nile Virus

Public Education also includes:

1. Local Radio show - was weekly during H1N1 outbreak and now monthly and time donated by Brookings Radio Station
2. Newspaper ads and articles
3. Summits and educational meetings with schools, churches, businesses, service clubs, and community organizations.
4. Essay contest for Middle and High School youth. The winning essay also one Best of Show at 4-H County Achievement Days.
5. Keloland TV has done four stories on the activities of the group.
6. Work is highlighted on Extension Disaster Education Network National Preparedness Month web page -- <http://eden.lsu.edu>

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