

# Report: U.S. Only Half Ready For Flu Pandemic

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(Washington, DC) -- States in the U.S. have made progress in preparing for a potential flu pandemic by stockpiling drugs and developing large-scale vaccination plans.

But the other half of what must be done to be ready for a widespread flu outbreak, which could kill perhaps millions of people, remains far from complete.

A report from the U.S. Health and Human Services says what's lacking are preparedness measures to deal with the massive disruption such a flu outbreak would cause, such as transportation plans.

Health experts say a flu pandemic is inevitable and could begin from a flu strain like the bird flu that has killed nearly 250 people since 2003.

The economic impact of such an outbreak could be tremendous.

Health experts estimate about 40 percent of workers could become so severely ill they would be unable to do their jobs for possibly months.

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