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RICHARD L. CAÑAS
DIRECTOR

August 4, 2006

Dear IAC Sector Chairs and State Department Liaisons,

A severe pandemic influenza has the ability to affect our nation's critical infrastructure, and as a result our national economic and social stability. As part of the Federal Government's overall pandemic preparedness strategy, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has released the ***Pandemic Influenza Preparedness, Response, and Recovery Guide for Critical Infrastructure and Key Resources (CI/KR)***.

I am forwarding the attached electronic version of this Guide directly to the Sector Chairs of the Infrastructure Advisory Committee and the State Department Liaisons to the IAC Sectors in order to expedite its dissemination within and across CI/KR sectors. I am requesting that this letter and document be forwarded to the industries and businesses within your sector.

The primary purpose of this Pandemic Guide is to stimulate the private sector, and specifically the critical infrastructures and key resource sectors, to act now. In one document, the Guide provides an overview of the pandemic threat; assembles the primary government and pandemic influenza related background material, references, and contacts; articulates the roles, responsibilities, and authorities for all public-private partners; outlines the implications for businesses; and presents an innovative strategic framework that extends and refines existing business continuity planning. The framework, Continuity of Operations Plan-Essential (COP-E) supports DHS's national-level CI/KR preparedness and protection mission and urges private sector business planners to expand upon their traditional notions of business continuity.

This Guide is one of several practical tools that will help CI/KR owner-operators and other private sector partners enhance private sector pandemic preparedness. Others include the CDC's business planning checklists <http://www.pandemicflu.gov/plan/tab4.html>, the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services' *Pandemic Influenza Plan* <http://www.hhs.gov/pandemicflu/plan/> and the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services Draft Pandemic Flu Plan, which can be found on <http://www.state.nj.us/health/>.

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Distribution of this document is an important step in preparing for a severe pandemic influenza. I believe it will greatly benefit our partners in both the public and private sectors. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Dennis Quinn, of my staff at 609-584-4078.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Richard Cañas".

Richard Cañas, Director
Office of Homeland Security & Preparedness

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