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## **Amid Widespread, Peak Flu Season in the United States, the Alliance for Biosecurity Encourages Education and Vigilance**

As peak flu season continues in the United States, the Centers for Disease Control's influenza surveillance has reported widespread flu activity in over 46 states.

From October through mid-December, there were more than 13,400 confirmed influenza cases in the U.S., up more than six times the number of cases over the same period in 2016, according to the CDC.

Each year, on average, five to 20 percent of the U.S. population gets the flu, tens of thousands are hospitalized and thousands die from flu-related illness.

“Our mission at the Alliance for Biosecurity is to promote a strong public-private partnership to ensure medical countermeasures (MCMs) are available to protect public health and enhance national health security,” said Brent MacGregor, Alliance Co-Chair. “What we’re seeing is that a bad influenza season can have serious consequences. An influenza pandemic, though, could be absolutely cataclysmic.”

That is why the Alliance continues to support robust public-private partnerships with governments to address the need for medical countermeasures across the entire pandemic ecosystem – the “3 legs of the stool” approach for 1) diagnostics, determining what you have, 2) vaccines, preventative measures to avoid becoming ill, and 3) therapeutics, measures to assist when a patient has fallen ill.

“We encourage all Americans, medical personnel and public health officials to consult CDC guidance as outlined below, to help answer questions related to influenza and to seek the medical help that they need,” said Chris Frech, Alliance Co-Chair.

CDC Guidance:

[CDC Influenza Resource Page](#)

[CDC December 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017 Guidance Resource Page](#)

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*The Alliance for Biosecurity is a coalition of biopharmaceutical companies and laboratory/academic partners that promotes a strong public-private partnership to ensure medical countermeasures are available to protect public health and enhance national health security. The Alliance advocates for public policies and funding to support the rapid development, production, stockpiling, and distribution of critically needed medical countermeasures. Learn more online at [AllianceForBiosecurity.com](http://AllianceForBiosecurity.com).*