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AWI Communiqué

DATE: November 16, 2009

TO: Workforce Florida, Inc. and Regional Workforce Boards (RWBs)

FROM: Lois A. Scott, Program Manager, One-Stop and Program Support

SUBJECT: Anticipating and Responding to the Influenza Pandemic

PURPOSE:

To transmit Training and Employment Notice 13-09 (TEN 13-09) regarding the roles One-Stop Career Centers play in responding to the influenza pandemic and the supporting resources and information available.

REFERENCE:

- TEN 13-09: Anticipating and Responding to the Influenza Pandemic
http://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/corr_doc.cfm?DOCN=2817

BACKGROUND:

The current influenza pandemic is the first worldwide influenza pandemic since 1968, and in response, the United Nation's World Health Organization has issued its highest alert status. To meet this health challenge, President Barack Obama has initiated a nationwide influenza prevention campaign.

One-Stop Career Centers may be called upon to perform several roles in response to the influenza pandemic:

- interact with a wide array of Federally and State-funded services and local public, private, and non-profit organizations, which serve diverse customers with multiple needs;
- connect employers with jobseekers who can perform essential medical and public health jobs;
- assist FEMA by identifying skilled workers for recovery and disaster relief efforts;
- support training and identify certified health care workers;
- provide vital information to the public, including influenza avoidance tips and treatment options;
- offer sites for temporary public health services, such as inoculation or emergency clinics; and
- deploy mobile vans to disaster sites

AUTHORITY:

United States Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration

ACTION REQUIRED:

To respond to the pandemic, Regional Workforce Boards and workforce professionals need to ensure that: 1) their workers are well informed; 2) that they can recognize the dangers; and 3) they know the organization's plan to continue operations in the event of a severe influenza pandemic.

RESOURCE:

- For information on the influenza pandemic see www.pandemicflu.gov and www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R40554.pdf.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) hotline, 1-800-CDC-INFO (1-800-232-4636) or email cdcinfo@cdc.gov;
- State public health departments are available at www.cdc.gov/mmwr/international/relres.html.
- For a recording, transcript, and PowerPoint Presentation of the ETA Pandemic Influenza Webinar "Anticipating and Responding to a Pandemic Influenza" see: www.workforce3one.org/view/5000923237649395705/info.