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INDIANA STATE BOARD OF ANIMAL HEALTH

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To: Local Health Departments
From: Bret D. Marsh, DVM, Indiana State Veterinarian

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RE: Supplements to the Pandemic Town Hall Meetings Tool Kit

Many of you have already begun hosting local meetings to educate your communities about pandemic influenza. I am excited to see this grassroots educational effort underway across the state.

Several counties have called upon local veterinarians to participate in the meetings. We have received requests for our staff to participate or contribute, and we are happy to oblige. We have also heard from local, private practitioners who have been involved with several of these meetings.

If you have not considered utilizing the veterinary community, I want to encourage you to consider adding another perspective to this complicated issue. Media coverage has not always been the most helpful in sorting out the differences between and the risks of avian influenza and pandemic flu.

If you need assistance in identifying a veterinarian—either on our staff or in private practice—to answer questions, assist with planning efforts or participate in these meetings, feel free to contact my Public Information staff. Denise Derrer and Ginny Veith are available to help identify resources within or near your community. Contact them via email at: animalhealth@boah.in.gov or by phone at 317/227-0375.

Included with this message are two files I hope will be of help to you. The first is a question and answer sheet specifically about avian influenza. Some of the information will be familiar to you, but this sheet, prepared by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, may be appropriate for some audiences, particularly in rural areas where poultry is common.

The second is a PowerPoint presentation that presents additional information to complement the pieces provided to you by ISDH.

We hope these will be helpful to you and that we can serve as another resource to you in your efforts to prepare our communities.

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