



## **Planning for an Avian Influenza Pandemic: Is Your Practice Prepared?**

**25<sup>th</sup> July 2006**

### **5 Key Points**

1. In 1918, 18 million people died of influenza, including 83% of the population of Nashville, Tennessee and 77% of the population of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.
2. Currently, there have been 231 diagnosed cases of H5N1 avian influenza with a 58% mortality rate. There have been limited cases of human-human transmission of the virus.
3. Telephone research commissioned by the DHS (n=600) shows that in the event of a pandemic, 42% of Victorians expect to receive critical advice and information from the government, whilst 22% expect it from their GP. 50% said they would go to their GP for advice about a serious health issue such as avian influenza.
4. Infection control in the workplace will be a crucial issue in the event of a pandemic – surface infection can last for up to 6 days. Magazines, cuddly toys, and pens etc will all need to be removed from the practice, or cleaned after each use.
5. Practices are advised to plan now so that they are prepared in the event of a pandemic.