Perspectives on Disaster Responses

Practical Measures in Epidemic Prevention and Control
• **Purpose of border measures** - slow disease spread from one continent to another

• **US policy** - move passengers and goods while protecting public health

• Flexible measures would adjust for low, medium or high severity virus

• Air passenger **entry** screening may begin if severe virus is outside North America

• Air passenger **exit** screening may begin if severe virus is in North America but not elsewhere
US developed and tested air entry screening procedures at Miami Airport

Most components worked well, but delays could cause passengers to miss flights

19 US airports developed entry screening plans based on Miami exercise

Exit screening procedures currently under development

Test via computer modeling and exercises
• H1N1 showed pandemics can be mild
• Need response plans for all severities
• Plans to be coordinated with partners – aviation and international
• Plans are risk-based and tested
  – Strong public information component
  – Passive and active surveillance
  – Questionnaires
  – Health screening: primary, secondary
  – Thermal scanners? No decision yet
Airport Modeling

Washington Dulles International Airport IAB Primary Hall
Next Steps

• Engaging airline and airport representatives
• Lessons learned: adjust plans developed before H1N1 to be more flexible, scalable
• Testing via low cost, low impact means
• On-going planning for any biologic event

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