



## Emerging and Reemerging Infectious Diseases, Region of the Americas

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### **Influenza: Preparations of the Southern Cone Countries in the Event of a Pandemic**

Activities have been carried out to comply with the recommendations from the document PAHO/DPC/CDC/32/03, *Guidelines for the Preparation of a Subregional Plan of Southern Cone Countries for an Influenza Pandemic*. This report is on The PAHO web is publishing the [report online](#).

On 23 July 2003, PAHO held a conference call among experts from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, and Uruguay in charge of national activities revolving around surveillance, emerging and reemerging disease prevention and control, influenza laboratories; PAHO staff in the countries and CDC staff of the Influenza Branch. Two main points were discussed:

1. The *progress* made by the countries in preparing the plan on national preparedness in the event of an influenza pandemic, especially in identifying multi-institutional national committees.
2. The *current situation* of sentinel surveillance; sample collection, management, transport and shipments; and dissemination of information via *FluNet*.

Among the **main conclusions** reached, we note the following:

- The need for establishing *alternative mechanisms for purchasing antivirals* in a centralized way and for stockpiling in case of a pandemic.
- The *difficulties* created by the need for expanded surveillance, which arise in some countries with regard to sample shipments from sub-national sentinel sites.
- Only 3 out of the 6 participating countries claimed to have a *Multi-institutional and Multisectoral Committee* in charge of preparing a contingency plan for an influenza pandemic.