COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Office of the Governor

Timothy M. Kaine
Governor

February 20, 2006

My Fellow Virginians:

As our world and our nation prepare for a potential influenza pandemic, so too must Virginia.

That is why I invite you to attend Virginia's Pandemic Influenza Summit on Thursday, March 23, 2006 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This event will be held at the Greater Richmond Convention Center at 403 North 3rd Street in Richmond.

I am also pleased and honored that U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary, Michael O. Leavitt, will be joining us to outline the federal effort. Joining him will be a team of federal officials to discuss current and future plans and to learn of our ideas and concerns.

Virginians can be proud of the network of partnerships and agreements we have in place to address emergencies including a possible influenza pandemic. Yet while avian influenza (bird flu) and the possibility of a human pandemic have been much discussed in the media, this meeting will provide a great opportunity to share our planning efforts and stimulate further planning at the community level. Likewise, we hope to hear from you about plans, ideas and recommendations during our morning discussion time as well as during afternoon breakout sessions as we continue to our efforts to prepare Virginia for this potential threat.

Please note that seating for this event is limited and advance registration is required, so we urge you to respond quickly to this invitation. To respond, please register online at https://va.train.org. You will also find more details about the conference including the full agenda and background information to familiarize you with the issue at www.vdh.virginia.gov/pandemicflu.gov. If you have questions or need assistance with the on-line registration system, send an e-mail to eprtraining@vdh.virginia.gov or call 804-371-5009.

I look forward to having you join us for this important effort to protect Virginia.

Sincerely,

Timothy M. Kaine