

Pandemic Preparedness

The recent focus on avian flu has prompted U.S. government and private agencies to become educated on and provide control measures to prevent a pandemic (a global disease outbreak). Pilgrim Bank considers emergency preparedness planning very important and has implemented Contingency Planning and Influenza Preparedness Planning in preparation of any such disaster or emergency.

The goal of Pilgrim Bank's preparedness is to protect our customer relationships; minimize serious illness and hospitalizations of staff; to preserve critical infrastructure; and to minimize business disruption.

Pilgrim Bank believes that education, communication and planning go hand-in-hand for preventing and preparing for such an outbreak. To that end, the Bank has proactive planning and reactive planning strategies in place.

To **educate** our customers and staff, visit:

Center for Disease Control (CDC) at <http://www.pandemicflu.gov/>

World Health Organization (WHO)

at http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/en/index.html

Practice **good health** habits. Wash hands thoroughly and often, use antibacterial wipes. Cover mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth.

Utilize **Electronic Banking**. Enroll in Pilgrim Bank's online banking and bill pay. Obtain and use a debit or ATM card. This allows one access to funds while restricting direct personal interaction.

Guidelines for prevention and preparedness may also be obtained from Pilgrim Bank's Safety and Security Department (903-575-2169).