A deadly and contagious strain of avian influenza has stricken nations across East and Southeast Asia, and now spread to bird populations in Europe, the Near East and Africa. While the number of human cases of H5N1 avian flu are still small, over half of those infected have died. What happens if this strain mutates to easily spread from human to human?

A human influenza pandemic could emerge from this animal disease, health officials warn. In September 2005, President Bush announced the International Partnership on Avian and Pandemic Influenza during the United Nations General Assembly. This partnership has pledged to combat this potential world crisis, pursuing the following goals:

+ Elevate the avian influenza issue on national agendas.
+ Coordinate efforts among donor and affected nations.
+ Mobilize and leverage resources.
+ Increase transparency in disease reporting and the quality of surveillance.
+ Build local capacity to identify, contain and respond to an influenza pandemic.

"At this moment, there is no pandemic influenza in the United States or the world. But if history is our guide, there is reason to be concerned. In the last century, our country and the world have been hit by three influenza pandemics — and viruses from birds contributed to all of them."

George W. Bush
Meeting the Challenge of Bird Flu

**Commitment:** Understanding the Challenge
Scientists are working to understand how the bird flu virus works and how it can be combated. Bird flu viruses among poultry occur worldwide from time to time and are spread when birds infect other birds.

Bird Flu FAQ ................................................................. page 1

Unlocking Secrets of the Bird Flu Virus ....................... page 5

**Science:** Combating Bird Flu
As researchers discover more about bird flu and search for vaccines, early diagnosis remains key to containing the spread of the virus. Global cooperation and surveillance allows countries to share information critical to vaccine development.

Early Diagnosis: A Critical Step in Bird Flu Prevention ........ page 7

Global Surveillance Yields Annual Vaccines ..................... page 9

**Response:** Working Together
America and the world are responding to the threat of pandemic influenza. Working at home and abroad, the U.S. government is joining with international partners to prevent the spread of bird flu and a global pandemic.

Safeguarding Against Pandemic Influenza ......................... page 13

Ten Things You Need to Know About Pandemic Influenza ..... page 15

**Internet Resources**
Links to useful websites and online reading ..................... page 17