



# MEDIA RELEASE

## Emergency Management Agency

Ohio Emergency Management Agency • Nancy J. Dragani, Executive Director  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**September 14, 2009**

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## **September is National Preparedness Month**

**Week Three – Make a Plan – Are you Ready or Are you *Ready*?**

(COLUMBUS) – September marks the observance of National Preparedness Month and the Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS) is leading a statewide campaign with a diverse group of national, state and local partners to highlight the importance of emergency preparedness and to promote community involvement throughout events and activities.

National Preparedness Month 2009 focuses on changing perceptions about emergency preparedness to help Ohioans understand what it truly means to be *Ready*. Each week during National Preparedness Month, ODPS is sending a press release or providing information on different areas of preparedness most likely to impact Ohioans. Many of us think being *Ready* means being prepared for a major disaster or emergency, but being *Ready* also includes being prepared for something as simple as a family illness or childcare situation.

Consider the following scenario: There are a significant number of teachers out with H1N1 at your child's school and school will be closed for at least a week. Do you have a back-up plan for childcare?

**Make a Plan. You can plan for an influenza pandemic now. You should know the magnitude of what can happen during a pandemic outbreak and what actions you can take to help lessen the impact of an influenza pandemic on you and your family.**

- Your family may not be together when disaster strikes, so it is important to know how you will contact one another, how you will get back together and what you will do in case of an emergency.
- Having an alternative method of child care during an emergency is important, because the emergency may only affect your child's school for an extended period of time.
- You may also want to inquire about emergency plans at places where your family spends time: work, daycare and school. If no plans exist, consider volunteering to help create one.
- Be sure to consider the specific needs of your family members
- Notify caregivers and babysitters about your plan.

For more information about preparing for or responding to an emergency, log on [www.Ready.Ohio.gov](http://www.Ready.Ohio.gov) or [www.ode.state.oh.us](http://www.ode.state.oh.us) so you can be sure your family and loved ones are *Ready*.

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*Throughout the month, ODPS is highlighting testimonials of Ohioans who have survived a disaster, or the impact the disaster has had on their community, on Ohio's preparedness Web site: [www.Ready.Ohio.gov](http://www.Ready.Ohio.gov). The site also has resources to help Ohioans develop a game plan to be prepared, including making a plan, putting together an emergency kit and sharing information with others.*