

At-A-Glance

Pandemic Flu

A pandemic flu is a large outbreak of disease that occurs when a new influenza virus appears to which people have little or no immunity. It affects people of all ages, backgrounds, and locations causing illness and death as well as social disruption.



What to expect with Pandemic...

- People will have little or no immunity to the virus as they have not been previously exposed to it; Healthy people may be at increased risk for serious complications.
- Vaccine likely will not be available in early stages of the pandemic. Symptoms may be more severe.
- Rapid Worldwide Spread; When a pandemic flu virus emerges expect it to spread around the world; You should prepare for a pandemic flu as if the entire world population is susceptible.
- Countries may try to delay the pandemic flu's arrival through border closings and travel restrictions, but they cannot stop it; Potential for severe impact on domestic and world economy.
- Many people are likely to become ill at the same time; Many agencies may shut down or canceled, including public transportation, schools, businesses, public areas, etc.

Did you know?

Death rates may be high. Four factors determine the death toll:

- The number of people who become infected.
- The strength of the virus.
- The underlying characteristics and vulnerability of affected populations.
- The effectiveness of preventive measures.

For more information go to:

www.ready.gov

Reduce infection by...

- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water or an alcohol-based sanitizer.
- Cough or sneeze into a tissue; place used tissues directly into the trash. If you do not have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your elbow or upper sleeve.
- After coughing or sneezing, clean your hands with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer; Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth as germs are often spread when a person touches something contaminated, then touches his eyes, nose or mouth.
- Stay at home if you are ill; Create a plan among your family/friends for caring for one another should one of you become ill.

Staying informed on Pandemic Flu...

- Be aware of the status of the pandemic in the media.
- Seek information on public services that may close, requiring you to plan ahead.
- Follow updates provided by local public health authorities and personal health care providers.

Sources: American Red Cross, Flu.gov, and US Department of Health and Human Services



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