

Public health emergencies – influenza pandemic planning



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Public health emergency management

Public health emergency management is aimed at protecting an affected and surrounding population from health risks that are generated by emergencies or disasters, both in the immediate and long term.

Public health emergency response

Role & functions of DHS (as vested in the CHO)

- Incident Controller for
 - Communicable disease incidents
 - Radiological incidents
 - Water contamination
 - Food safety
- Support Agency for
 - Chemical incidents
 - Effects on human health and safety
 - Any public health threat

Influenza

National planning framework

- Legislation
 - *Quarantine Act* (Commonwealth)
 - *Health Act (ID Regulations)* (Victoria)
- National surveillance system
- Antivirals
- Medical care and essential services
- Communications
- Vaccines

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Modelled hospitalizations

	Low estimate	High estimate
Low attack risk	2,079	8,108
High attack risk	10,393	40,538

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Modelled excess mortality

	Low estimate	High estimate
Low attack risk	755	3,381
High attack risk	3,775	16,908

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Modelled medical visits

	Low estimate	High estimate
Low attack risk	200,743	237,838
High attack risk	1,003,715	1,189,188

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Pandemic planning

- Draft Victorian plan circulated for comment
 - On the internet
- Aims
 - minimise morbidity and mortality
 - minimise impact on the Victorian community, health care system and economy
- Staged approach

Influenza Stages

- Inter-pandemic period
- Outbreaks in animals overseas
- Outbreaks in humans overseas
- Outbreaks in animals in Australia
- Outbreaks in animals in Australia
- Pandemic
- Recovery

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Pandemic planning objectives

- Objectives vary by stage
- Containment
 - Interrupt transmission if this is feasible
- Maintenance of social function
 - Minimise morbidity and mortality
 - Maintain essential services
- Recovery

Influenza Surveillance

- Surveillance protocols being updated
- Interpandemic surveillance
 - Data from the WHO
 - Notification of laboratory confirmed influenza
 - Sentinel GP network with sampling of swabs for virology
 - Aged care and other facilities encouraged to report outbreaks of ILI promptly for investigation

Influenza

Role of GPs

- Prevention
 - Education
 - Interpandemic immunization
- Surveillance
 - Sentinel reporting and virus sampling
 - Reporting (suspect) cases
- Treatment and referral
 - Use of antivirals
 - Use of antibiotics
- Infection control
- Quarantine and isolation
- Community leadership

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Role of GPs

- GP workforce
- Very high demand
- Illness
- Early discharges from hospital
- Emergency department overload
- Psychosocial impact

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Communication between GPs & the DHS

- Notification
- Health alerts
- Guidelines and advice
- Continuing dialogue

Influenza

Role of GPs

- Place of consultation
 - Surgery
 - Patient's home
 - 'Fever clinic'

Questions?

Website

- http://www.health.vic.gov.au/ideas/regulations/vic_influenza.htm