

Pandemic Influenza Preparedness and Response

A WHO Guidance

KEY RECOMMENDED ACTIONS BY PANDEMIC PHASES

Phase 1-3

- Producing, implementing and exercising national pandemic influenza preparedness and response plans.

Phase 4

- Rapid containment of the emerging pandemic virus.

Phase 5-6

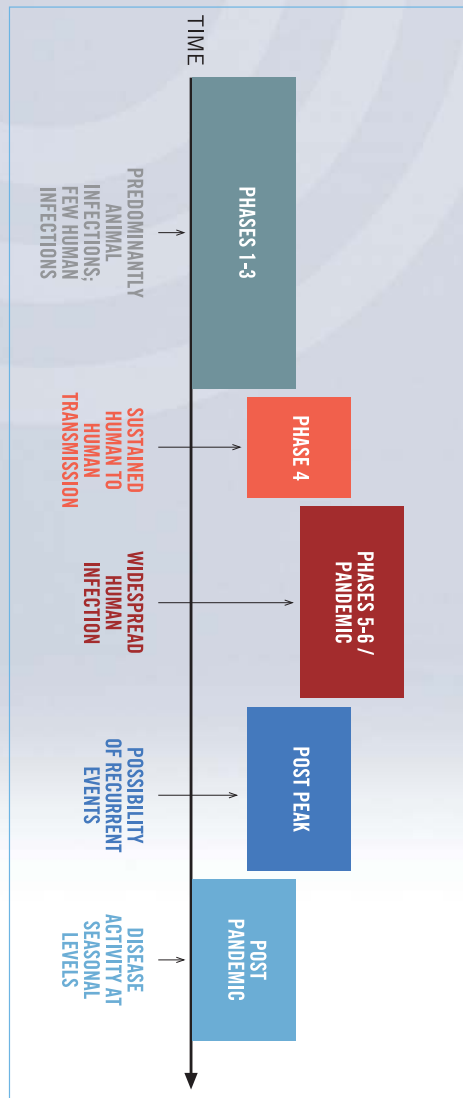
- Pandemic response for mitigating the effects on the society.

Post-peak period

- Evaluation of response; recovery; preparation for a possible second wave.

Post-pandemic period

- Evaluation of response; revision of plans; recovery.



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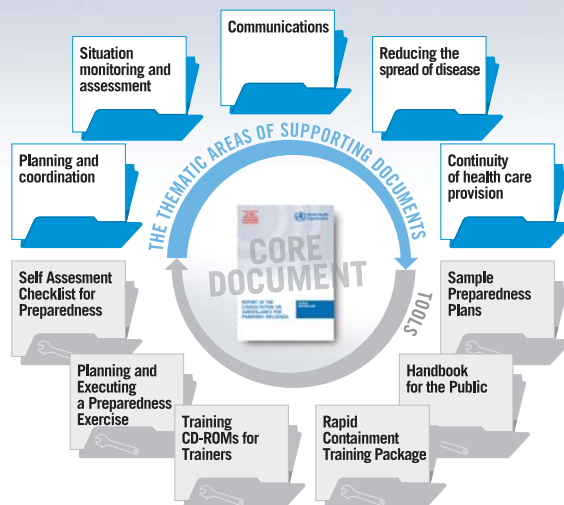
The WHO Guidance on Pandemic Influenza Preparedness and Response

INTRODUCTION

The WHO guidance has been developed to guide Member States and others responsible for pandemic influenza preparedness activities. It replaces “WHO global influenza preparedness plan: The role of WHO and recommendations for national measures before and during pandemics”, published in 2005.

The WHO Guidance is the core strategic document of pandemic preparedness materials. These documents and tools provide detailed information on a broad range of specific recommendations and activities, as well as guidance on their implementation. The individual elements of the guidance package will be made available as they are finalized.

FIGURE 1
THE WHO GUIDANCE PACKAGE FOR PANDEMIC INFLUENZA PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE



What is new in the 2009 Guidance?

CLEAR GUIDANCE ON ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

WHO

- Global coordination under the International Health Regulations (IHR 2005).
- Designation of the global pandemic alert phase.
- Recommendation for switch to pandemic influenza vaccine production.
- Assistance to national pandemic rapid containment efforts.
- Assessment of pandemic severity.

National preparedness and response - Whole-of-Society approach:

- Adoption of a multisectoral collaborative approach to mitigate the impact of an influenza pandemic on the society.
- Involvement of all sectors individuals, families and communities in pandemic preparedness.

ENSURING ETHICAL AND SUSTAINABLE PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

Emphasis on sustainable preparedness:

- Integrating pandemic plans into general national emergency preparedness frameworks.
- Using pandemic influenza preparedness activities to strengthen basic capacities required for public health and emergencies.
- Using pandemic influenza preparedness activities to build communication channels among sectors.
- Periodically reassessing and updating current plans based on new developments.

Legal and ethical considerations:

- Building pandemic plans that reflect fundamental ethical and basic human rights considerations.

FIGURE 2
WHOLE OF SOCIETY APPROACH TO PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS



RESTRUCTURING PANDEMIC PHASES AND ITS DEFINITIONS

- Simpler and more precise definitions based on observable phenomena.
- Grouping of phases for critical considerations for planning:
 - Phases 1–3 correlating broadly with planning and preparedness activities.
 - Phase 4 signalling a potentially major change in the risk of a pandemic.
 - Phases 5–6 highlighting the need to implement response and mitigation efforts.
 - “Post peak” period emphasizing the possibility of another wave.
 - “Post pandemic” period allocated for the recovery phase.