

TOP TEN

Resources for SC/NGOs on Pandemic Preparedness & Response

Eric S. Starbuck, Guest Editor

September 10, 2014

Why NGO Pandemic Preparedness & Response?

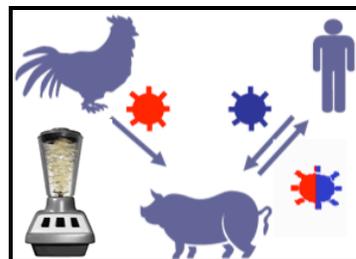
Influenza pandemics are worldwide epidemics caused by new flu viruses which evolve from birds or animals to allow sustained person-to-person respiratory transmission. Since the 16th century, there has been an average of about three flu pandemics per century. While the 1918 pandemic is estimated to have killed 50 to 100 million people, the most recent pandemic, the 2009 “swine flu,” was very much milder.

The concern today is that another virus, such as the H5N1 or H7N9 bird flu virus, or the MERS coronavirus, could evolve to cause a severe pandemic. In such an event, vaccine and antiviral treatment would likely be unavailable for much or all of the world’s population during at least the first several months.

Although risk of onset in the next year, or in the next decade, of a severe pandemic involving respiratory transmission of a novel virus can not be quantified, such an event is considered to be an important global threat by leading organizations. For example, the World Development Report 2014 notes that “a severe flu pandemic could more than double the total burden of disease” and “trigger a global recession.”

Due to substantial concerns over the threat posed by the H5N1 virus, Save the Children (SC) began substantial work on preparedness in 2005, focusing on three priorities:

- The health and safety of SC staff and their families;
- Continuity of key SC business and services; and



- Mitigating the consequences of a severe pandemic in the communities in which we work around the world: Working with partners to plan interventions at family and community levels to reduce transmission, care for the ill, support continuity of key services, and address the needs of children.

Short Introductory Videos

These short videos provide a good introduction to the nature of the threat and the challenges for preparedness and response.

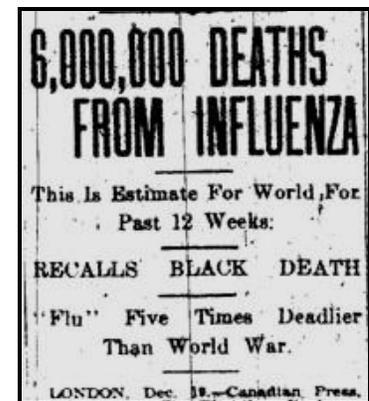
- www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/body/1918-flu.html **1918 Flu**, 13 minutes, Nova Science Now, PBS, Nov. 2006. Good brief introduction to pandemic flu, 1918, & H5N1.
- www.youtube.com/watch?v=tpzxNoLZx0w&mode=related&search **Hospitals Full-Up: The 1918 Influenza Pandemic**, 7 minutes, Johns Hopkins Center for Civilian Biodefense Studies, Nov. 2000. Excellent short documentary comparing the 1918 flu pandemic with modern-day health capabilities in the event of a large-scale infectious disease outbreak.
- www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/preparedness/pandemicflu/video.aspx **Business Not As Usual: Preparing for Pandemic Flu**, 20 minutes, King County Public Health, Washington State, 2008. Focusses on business continuity planning for a severe pandemic.



9. Massachusetts was the first state to suffer huge numbers of civilian deaths. This is a hospital in Lawrence.



Preparing to Bury City's Influenza Victims



Overview & Save the Children Perspective on Preparedness for Low-Resource Populations

- <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/irv.12040/full> **Are we prepared to help low-resource communities cope with a severe influenza pandemic?** Influenza & Other Respiratory Viruses, November 2012.

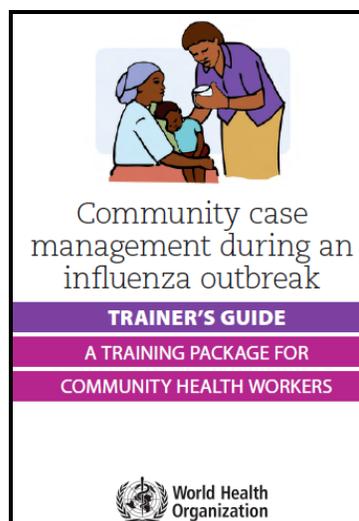
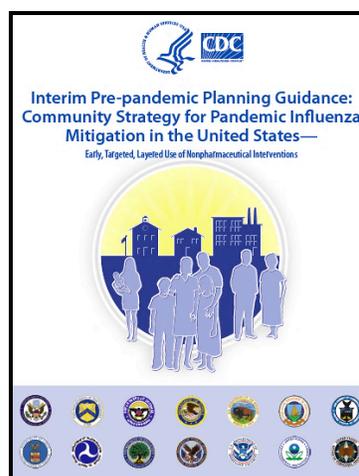
Outbreak Alerts, & Preparedness & Response

Guidance: Official Sites (These may be a little slow with breaking news, until official reports are received & confirmed.)

1. www.who.int/csr/don/ WHO Global Alert & Response (GAR). WHO posts on disease outbreaks, with links to other WHO pages on the specific threats of MERS coronavirus & H7N9, & to the page on Influenza at the Human-Animal Interface for H5N1, & links to pages on pandemic preparedness at www.who.int/influenza/preparedness/en/
2. <http://ecdc.europa.eu/> European CDC. Excellent rapid risk assessments, communicable disease threats reports, & public health guidance.
3. www.cdc.gov/outbreaks/ US CDC Current Outbreak List. This page links to other CDC pages on the specific threats of H5N1, H7N9, & MERS, to the CDC Travelers' Health pages, & to the US Dep. of Health pages on pandemic preparedness at www.flu.gov.

Key Official Guidance on Public Health Interventions (including NPIs: Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions to reduce flu transmission, & home care).

4. www.cdc.gov/nonpharmaceutical-interventions/index.html US CDC pages on NPIs.
5. www.cdc.gov/nonpharmaceutical-interventions/guidance/index.html Interim Pre-Pandemic Planning Guidance: Community Strategy for Pandemic Influenza Mitigation in the U.S. - Early, Targeted, Layered Use of Nonpharmaceutical Interventions, US CDC, Feb. 2007 (10 MB, also at: http://www.flu.gov/planning-preparedness/community/community_mitigation.pdf). 100+ pages, among the most important detailed guidance documents on pandemic preparedness & response, with recommended interventions based on pandemic severity.
6. http://ecdc.europa.eu/en/publications/Publications/0906_TER_Public_Health_Measures_for_Influenza_Pandemics.pdf Guide to public health measures to reduce the impact of influenza pandemics in Europe - 'The ECDC Menu,' European CDC, Sep. 2009. Provides summary information on a variety of potential public health interventions.
7. www.who.int/influenza/resources/documents/community_case_management_flipbook/en/index.html Community case management during



an influenza outbreak: A training package for community health workers, WHO, 2011. Includes guidance on family-level NPIs & home care.

8. www.cdc.gov/flu/homecare/ **The Flu: Caring for Someone Sick at Home**, US CDC, Feb. 2013.
9. <https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3327pandemic.pdf> **Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for an Influenza Pandemic**, OSHA, US Dep. of Labor, 2009.
10. www.who.int/csr/resources/publications/WHO_CDS_2005_28/en/ **WHO Outbreak Communication Guidelines**, 2005. Summary of best practices in outbreak communication.



About the Guest Editor

Eric S. Starbuck, DrPH, MPH, the Advisor for Child Health and Pandemic Preparedness in the Department of Health and Nutrition at Save the Children/US in Fairfield, Connecticut, has been working on pandemic preparedness since early 2006. He served as Public Health Advisor to the Humanitarian Pandemic Preparedness (H2P) initiative from 2007 through 2010, contributing to several WHO guidance documents. Eric is the lead author of "Are we prepared to help low-resource communities cope with a severe influenza pandemic?" in *Influenza and Other Respiratory Viruses*, November 2012.

Timely Independent Expert Reporting & Analysis of Important News

- www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/ **CIDRAP**, Center for Infectious Disease Research & Policy, University of Minnesota. Posts in the early evening US eastern time on work days. Links to many resources, including their repository of Public Health Practices.

Selected News & Analysis of Flu & Outbreaks, Regularly Updated

- <http://afludiary.blogspot.com/> **Avian Flu Diary**. Blog by Mike Coston with short commentary, from the US state of Florida. Experienced & trusted.

Further Guidance on Preparedness & Response for SC & Other NGOs

About the TOP TEN Series

The “Top Ten” series aims to provide readers with capsule summaries, citations, and links to a manageable number of current and forthcoming essential documents, web sites, affinity groups, and the like. The series is a product of the Health and Nutrition Global Initiative's STELLAR project of Save the Children. The Guest Editors welcome readers' input regarding additional resources and overall usefulness. (Please respond to estarbuck@savechildren.org.)

- www.savethechildren.org/publications/technical-resources/avian-flu/ **Save the Children (US) Influenza & Pandemic Threats external page.** Resources & guidance for SC staff & health professionals, regularly updated since 2006. See “Pandemic Threats: News & Guidance Links” for links to more resources.

Anticipated Guidance from WHO on Community Mitigation & NPIs

WHO believes that community mitigation is a key element of pandemic response, but detailed WHO guidance on community mitigation and NPIs is not yet available for in-country adaptation and testing. Such guidance will hopefully become available as an annex to the WHO guidance document on Pandemic Influenza Risk Management, currently under revision. See: www.who.int/influenza/preparedness/en/