

TOP TEN

Resources for SC/NGOs on **Pandemic Preparedness & Response**

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Updated, January 3, 2020

Why NGO Pandemic Preparedness & Response?

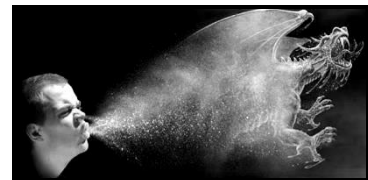
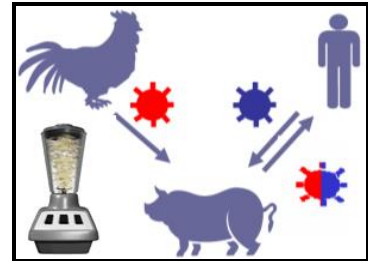
Influenza pandemics are worldwide epidemics caused by new flu viruses which evolve from birds or animals to allow sustained person-to-person respiratory transmission. Since the 16th century, there has been an average of about three flu pandemics per century. While the 1918 pandemic is estimated to have 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.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=On6ulcxqsnE> **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. Focuses on business continuity planning for a severe pandemic.



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.

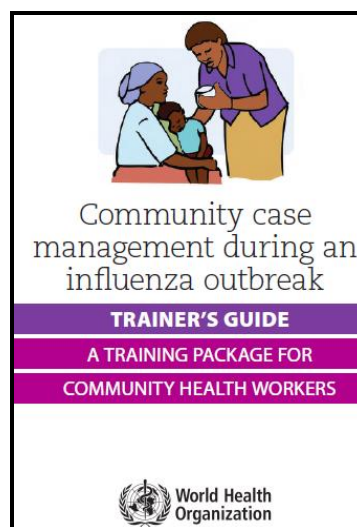
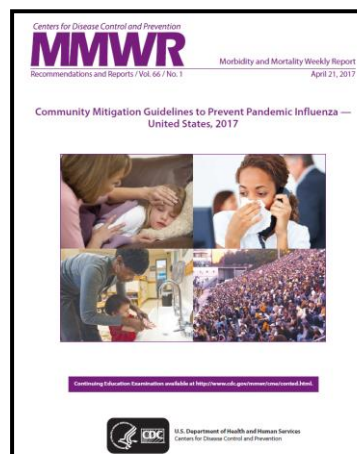
Outbreak Alerts, & Preparedness & Response Guidance: Official Sites

(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. <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices> **US CDC Travel Health Notices**, www.cdc.gov/outbreaks/ **Current Outbreak List**, & www.cdc.gov/flu/pandemic-resources/index.htm **Pandemic Influenza** pages.

Key Official Guidance on Public Health Interventions (including NPIs & home care).

4. https://www.who.int/influenza/publications/public_health_measures/publication/en/ **Non-pharmaceutical public health measures** for mitigating the risk & impact of epidemic & pandemic influenza, **WHO**, Oct. 2019. (Lacks how-to guidance.)
5. www.cdc.gov/nonpharmaceutical-interventions/index.html **US CDC pages on NPIs** (Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions), including ten 2017 detailed how-to guidance documents.
6. <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/publications-data/guide-public-health-measures-reduce-impact-influenza-pandemics-europe-ecdc-menu> **Guide to public health measures to reduce the impact of influenza pandemics in Europe – ‘The ECDC Menu,’** European CDC, Sep. 2009.
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. https://www.savethechildren.org/content/dam/global/report_s/emergency-preparation-disaster-risk-reduction/flu-home-care-cdc-2013.pdf **The Flu: Caring for Someone Sick at Home**, US CDC, Feb. 2013 (6 MB).
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.
11. http://www.paho.org/disasters/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1053:leadership-during-a-pandemic-what-your-municipality-can-do&Itemid=937&lang=en **Leadership During A Pandemic: What Your Municipality Can Do**. USAID, 2011. Includes health, food security, communications, & disaster management.



About the Guest Editor

Eric S. Starbuck, DrPH, MPH, the Advisor for Child Health and Pandemic Preparedness in the Department of Global Health 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.

About the TOP TEN Series

The "Top Ten" series aims to provide readers with capsule summaries, citations, and links to a manageable number of essential resources on Save the Children's priority technical areas of work. The resources are intended to capture the latest in the state of the art in Health, Nutrition, HIV and WASH. Each installment is edited by an established expert in the area under review. The series is published by the H&N GI once each month and disseminated widely among Save the Children staff.

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 a repository of Public Health Practices.

Selected News & Analysis of Flu & Outbreaks, Regularly Updated

- <http://afludiarly.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

- <https://www.savethechildren.org/us/about-us/resource-library/influenza-library> **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.

Training Resources

- <https://www.cdc.gov/nonpharmaceutical-interventions/tools-resources/educational-materials.html> **NPI 101: Introduction to NPIs for Pandemic Influenza**, interactive CDC course on how to plan to use NPIs to slow the spread of flu.
- <https://openwho.org/channels/pandemics> **OpenWHO**, WHO's interactive, web-based, knowledge-transfer platform offering online courses to improve the response to health emergencies.