



National Pandemic Response Plan

The primary mission of government in an emergency is to protect the lives and property of its citizens. Regardless of how well all systems are organized to provide assistance, the unpredictable nature of a pandemic and the time and space factors involved dictate that the local jurisdiction must be prepared to cope with the initial impact of a pandemic on its own.

Recognizing that routine emergency services will, by their nature, be inadequate to cope with the effects of such a disaster, it is the duty of local government to provide for the emergency expansion of its survival capabilities within the limits of available resources.

This Plan has been developed to provide a sound basis for emergency programmes to treat with a pandemic and to establish the organizational and operational concepts and procedures designed to minimize the impact of this hazard.

Emergency duties and responsibilities have been assigned, to the extent possible, to agencies having the same or similar responsibilities in the ODPMEMP's Basic Plan. Where necessary, agencies should develop specific SOPs explaining which tasks need to be performed and how they will be accomplished in the event of a pandemic.

Being prepared to recover from the effects of a pandemic requires constant development and revision of emergency procedures, training of staff and auxiliary personnel, and exercises to test this aspect of the ODPMEMP. This process and the results of actual emergency response operations will allow refining this guideline and its associated SOPs and supporting plans so that we are as well prepared as possible to cope with a pandemic.

Purpose

- a) Define the roles, responsibilities and authorities of all key agencies in responding to a pandemic event. It also outlines how these agencies will interface with the national authorities under the direction of a Unified Command
- b) Establish procedures to report pandemic situations to proper authorities through established channels of communication
- c) Demonstrate the capability to effectively analyze and validate information received through a variety of sources and determine its appropriate application /dissemination to various agencies in support of response/recovery initiatives
- d) Establish comprehensive training programmes to train and educate emergency responders to understand the nature of a pandemic and develop the appropriate tactics to effectively coordinate/support response efforts
- e) Identify the appropriate resources to promptly and effectively respond to incidents and provide a framework to coordinate volunteer resources in support of national disaster response and recovery operations.

Scope

- a) Applies to all national and regional government agencies responding to a pandemic
- b) Is designed to adapt to and to meet the challenges of these types of incidents adopted by the National Incident Management Systems (NIMS).

Situation and Assumptions

- a) Pre-event planning is critical to ensure a prompt/effective response to a pandemic influenza, as its spread will be rapid, reoccurring (in multiple waves), and difficult to stop once it begins
- b) A panflu outbreak may precipitate infection rates exceeding 25% in an affected population, with mortality rates as high as 2% among those infected
- c) Workforce absenteeism may rise as high as 40 percent at the height of a given pandemic wave for periods of about two weeks
- d) All operations and services within the public/private sectors will be compromised in varying degrees throughout the response and recovery phases; however, proper planning and adequate resources may sustain essential operations/services and mitigate the effects of the event
- e) Due to the universal susceptibility of the public to an influenza virus and the anticipated pervasive impact on all segments of society, the majority of the medical and non-medical consequences of the event will be addressed by the public and private sectors in the context of the existing emergency management framework, supporting infrastructure, available resources, and associated supply chains with marginal support from new or external parties
- f) Although technical assistance and support will be available through the national government prior to, during, and following the event period, it will be limited in contrast to other natural and man-made events that impact a specific geographic area in a more defined, shorter, and nonrecurring timeframe
- g) A comprehensive and integrated strategy will require the involvement of all levels of gov't, private sector, non-gov'tl organizations (NGO's), and citizens
- h) At the national level, the ODPM EMP, which is in compliance with the National Response Framework (NRF) and the National Incident Mgmt System (NIMS), will provide the framework to coordinate response and recovery operations and associated support needed for a pandemic disease outbreak
- i) Pandemic Flu planning is inherent in continuity of operations and business planning initiatives in the public and private sectors. Due to increased illness and death rates it focuses on implementing strategies and tools required to adapt to an environment where there is a reduced capacity to sustain essential operations, services, resource support, and critical infrastructure
- j) Although the government is in the process of developing an adequate inventory of anti-viral medication to treat the projected population that may be affected, there will be a significant and sustained increase in demand for medical services during each wave that will overwhelm the healthcare system and compromise the overall standard of care provided
- k) Vaccines will not be available for approximately six months following identification of the virus and will be in limited quantities when made available, necessitating the need to develop and implement a distribution plan
- l) Health infrastructure and associated resources will be quickly committed to providing the necessary treatment and supporting strategies to effectively respond to a potentially developing or actual event
- m) Non-pharmaceutical interventions, if applied in a timely manner, will play a significant role in mitigating the disease impact at the local and state level
- n) Telecommunications connectivity may be limited.

Organization

1. The World Health Organization (WHO) has authority to declare the pandemic phase. Based on this declaration the Minister of Health would advise the Prime Minister of the necessary actions to take locally.

2. Once actions are taken locally this Plan will be activated by the ODPM. The ODPM is the primary coordinating agency for the state and operates the NEOC on a 24-hour-a-day basis. The NEOC is the central point where all entities report incidents and assistance is requested when the nature or magnitude of the situation exceeds their capability.

3. NEOC integrates the ESF framework, Incident Command System (ICS) and the elements of NIMS into an effective and efficient organizational structure that will support the lead ESF-8 to coordinate assistance and support to affected communities.



WHO Alert Phases

1	Uncertain. No animal influenza virus circulating among animals has been reported to cause infection in humans.
2	Uncertain. Animal influenza virus circulating in domesticated or wild animals; caused infection in humans; considered a specific potential pandemic threat.
3	Uncertain. Animal or human-animal influenza reassortant virus has caused sporadic cases or small clusters of disease in people; no human-to-human transmission sufficient to sustain community-level outbreaks.
4	Medium to High. Verified human-to-human transmission of an animal or human-animal influenza reassortant virus able to sustain community-level outbreaks.
5	High to Certain. Same identified virus has caused sustained community-level outbreaks in at least two countries in one WHO region.
6	Pandemic in Progress. Same virus has caused sustained community level outbreaks in at least one other country in another WHO region.
POST PEAK	Pandemic levels in most countries with adequate surveillance below peak levels.
POSSIBLE NEW WAVE	Pandemic activity in most countries with adequate surveillance is rising again.
POST PANDEMIC	Levels have returned to seasonal influenza in most countries with adequate surveillance.

Concept of Operations

ODPM Response Phases are aligned with the WHO six pandemic alert phases. These Phases provide a standard framework for the country's response to Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) and influenza pandemic outbreaks. Monitoring will occur in all phases, and will be heightened as the situation warrants.

The ODPM as the coordinating agency for both HPAI/ influenza pandemic outbreaks is augmented by lead technical and support agencies. The lead technical agencies have specific expertise and assets for responding to particular outbreaks. The lead technical agencies and support agencies are represented in the NEOC. Agencies will utilize their response plans during activation. Agencies are to ensure that all responders within their agency are familiar with their respective plans and that incident command training occurs in each agency as applicable.

Execution

- This plan is in effect when signed by the Prime Minister (or designee) and may be executed upon proper notification of a pandemic to the ODPM
- ODPM will coordinate national and regional response and recovery support to the Ministry of Health (MOH), the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) and any other identified critical entity
- CEO, ODPM will maintain/update this plan as per established procedures. Participating agencies are to recommend improvements at any time
- This plan (and updates) will be forwarded to all organizations and individuals responsible for its implementation, and other recipients of the ODPM EMP

Roles and Responsibilities

Coordinating Agency: ODPM:

- Coordinate overall emergency planning, preparedness and response of all national agencies regarding HPAI and influenza pandemic outbreaks
- CEO, ODPM to be the national coordinator and PM's authorized representative for HPAI and influenza pandemic outbreaks
- Activate the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) as requested
- To support both local gov't and national agencies' emergency operations pre-pandemic and HPAI planning
- Develop/conduct HPAI and influenza pandemic emergency preparedness drills and exercises, involving multiple national agencies
- Activate agencies that are involved for the life of the incident
- Activate the support agencies during HPAI and influenza pandemic outbreaks
- Coordinate logistical and fiscal activities to support this supplement
- Coordinate development of a nationwide public information campaign regarding HPAI and influenza pandemic outbreaks and national response.

Lead Technical Agency: Ministry of Health (MOH):

- Responsible for the technical aspects of a response to an incident involving public health issues related to a pandemic outbreak
 - Increase surveillance activities and monitoring for human cases
 - Update training of health care workers
 - Keep health care systems informed of the status during a pandemic outbreak
 - Monitor visitors from affected countries/regions; quarantines as necessary
 - Provide the public with information about watching for symptoms of influenza pandemic outbreak, limiting interactions with ill persons, using infection control precautions, and providing care of the ill at home
- Disease Surveillance
 - Control and prevention – protocols for quarantine, isolation, mass vaccination, and mass care clinics
 - Safe food preparation and handling
 - Training/assistance in security of water supply systems
 - Maintenance of potable water supply
 - Handling/identifying/disposing of deceased
 - Provision of short-term behavioral health services
 - Health assessment and training programmes for healthcare/support staff
- Assists the health care system in patient care coordination
 - Develop/maintain procedures for: →
 - Develop fact sheets; provide guidance about communicable disease transmission and personal protective actions that should be taken to reduce exposure

Ministry of Agriculture (MOA)

- Coordinate plans with divisions and departments
- Ensure its EOC is structured; prepared for activation
- Ensure someone is available for NEOC to provide guidance
- Provide testing as appropriate for the general public on suspect birds
- Provide public education information on handling of birds in hunting, etc.
- Coordinate with MOH and ODPM to ensure educational materials are available to hunters, wildlife enthusiasts, poultry industry, health care community and public
- Work with businesses/industries on integration in the NEOC
- Increase vigilance in monitoring wild bird populations for morbidity/mortality
- Liaise with producer groups
- Provide technical expertise, if requested, to poultry producers on how to minimize use of the farms by migratory waterfowl
- Provides technical veterinary expertise
- Activates the Highly Contagious Disease Response Plan (HCDRP), if one exists, which should include an established control area; increased surveillance within control area and contact premises; working with MOH to develop appropriate recommendations for worker and responder safety.