



Pandemic Influenza Information for the Public

The Disease

- Pandemic flu is a type of influenza that spreads rapidly to affect most countries and regions around the world.
- Unlike the ordinary flu that occurs every winter in the Michigan, pandemic flu can occur at any time of year.
- Pandemics of influenza have occurred sporadically throughout history – three times in the last hundred years – resulting in many deaths.
- Experts predict another pandemic will occur but cannot say exactly when it will happen. When it does, it may come in two or more waves several months apart. Each wave may last two to three months.
- Pandemic flu is more serious than ordinary flu. As much as a quarter of the population may be affected – maybe more.
- Pandemic flu is likely to cause the same symptoms as ordinary flu. The symptoms may be more severe because nobody will have any immunity or protection against that particular virus.
- A serious pandemic is likely to cause many deaths, disrupt the daily life of many people and cause intense pressure on health and other services.
- Each pandemic is different, and until the virus starts circulating, it is impossible to predict its full effects.

For more information on Pandemics:

- Visit the Michigan Department of Community Health website: <http://www.michigan.gov/flu>
- Visit: www.pandemicflu.gov
- Call the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Public Response Service Hotline:
English: 1-888-246-2675, Español: 1-888-246-2857, TTY: 1-866-874-2646