



Controlling Pandemic Flu Fact Sheet for the Public

- Rapid detection, diagnosis, vaccination, antiviral drugs and ‘social’ interventions are the principle tools in controlling a pandemic.
- A vaccine for use against pandemic flu can only be produced once the pandemic strain has been identified. This means that vaccines will not be available immediately.
- Antiviral drugs are the only other medical treatment. There are important limitations to the use of antiviral drugs, including uncertainty over their effectiveness.
- The United States Pandemic plan has identified strategies and has identified vulnerable groups for receipt of both vaccines and antiviral drugs according to their availability.
- Various ‘social’ interventions at both the personal and national level may be necessary. These include personal hygiene and possible restrictions on travel and mass gatherings.
- You can reduce the chances of spreading the flu by:
 - covering your nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing, using a tissue when possible
 - disposing of dirty tissues promptly and carefully – bag and bin them
 - avoiding nonessential travel and large crowds whenever possible
 - maintaining good basic hygiene, for example washing your hands frequently with soap and water to reduce the spread of the virus from your hands to your face, or to other people
 - cleaning hard surfaces (e.g. kitchen worktops, door handles) frequently using a normal cleaning product, and
 - making sure your children follow this advice.

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