

Scenario A

The World Health Organizations (WHO) has been actively monitoring countries in the developing and industrial countries trying to detect an outbreak of flu that reflects a mutated flu virus that will potentially lead to the next flu pandemic.

It is early October and due to reports of a cluster of deaths in Vietnam a team of WHO staff augmented by Centers for Disease Control (CDC) personnel were sent to assist the government of Vietnam.

International news reports and the WHO have confirmed human to human transmission of a virus (Phase 4) that they believe is based on the H5N1 strain. Besides the initial cluster of cases, new cases are beginning to appear in the region of the outbreak and potentially unconfirmed cases in other Asian countries. There are no confirmed cases here in the USA.

You have been contacted by your local Health officials and they are warning that this looks like this is it! The efficacy of Tamiflu against this strain of virus is currently unknown.

1. What is the assessment of your readiness as a government and as a community for a flu pandemic?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What actions might you consider taking at this point?

Scenario B

The date is in late October, and cases of flu are starting to pop-up all across America. The West Coast has many cases with every major metropolitan area reporting scores of cases of the new virus. WHO has moved to Phase 5 of a pandemic. It looks like the current death rate being reported is 5% in Asia. Still no scientific basis for rating the efficacy of anti-viral medications being administered to patients.

The President has been making public announcements trying to reassure the public, and telling people to look to their local governments for guidance and assistance in this oncoming health emergency. Flu is the lead story on every news cast on TV and radio. There is conflicting advice coming from multiple quarters. Government officials are being quoted as contradicting one another and the internet and Blogs are seen as the place to get the real story. Actions being taken by some communities include:

- Closing schools
- Prohibiting large public gatherings indoors (Closing theaters, sporting events, etc.)

Other communities in the United States and here in Washington are still waiting to take action. Those who have begun to initiate social distancing orders are being criticized for creating panic. Absenteeism in your government is at 10%.

Airlines are reporting a 50% decrease in air travel and businesses are beginning to say that absenteeism is up. It is unknown at this point why that is. Some suspect because of people's fears of going out in public. Grocery stores and hardware stores are reporting people coming in and purchasing bulk quantities of food and other commodities.

1. When do you think it would be appropriate to enact social distancing orders?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. How deep does your line of succession (COG) go?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. What actions might you be taking to protect your employees?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. Today, what is the current status of medical care in your community?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. What is the home telephone number of your local Public Health Officer?

Scenario C

It is November and we are in the midst of a world wide flu pandemic, Phase 6.

The number of deaths are skyrocketing. Here the death rate for those who become ill with the flu is estimated to be about 3%. Hospitals have cancelled all elective surgeries and can not provide medical services to every patient. Most private hospitals are fearing bankruptcy if it continues for much longer.

Absenteeism in your government is 40%, about the same as it is throughout your community. Critical infrastructures like the phone and internet service have become unreliable with system overloads occurring on a daily basis.

Utilities are reporting that their systems are susceptible to failure at any time due to decrease capability to maintain their systems with people being absent. A very unusual cold wave has hit the Midwest, and power outages and brownouts are occurring throughout the central and Mid-Atlantic states.

People are angry at all levels of government for a failure to prepare and there is a political storm brewing throughout the region.

Some social unrest has been happening, to include racist attacks against people and businesses of Asian background because they are seen as the cause for all the deaths and suffering.

There is a call for pullout of our troops in Iraq in order to restore order here in the United States.

The environment is chaotic with shortages of almost every commodity due to labor issues being experience. As a local government you are only able to provide mission essential services at this point.

1. What are your mission essential services?
2. From where will you manage this long term crisis?
3. Outside resources cannot be brought in (mutual aid) since this is a world-wide and national disaster and everyone is experiencing the same event simultaneously. How would you organize your community to respond?