

Pandemic Influenza: What You Should Know Now

Pandemic influenza is much more serious than seasonal influenza.

Pandemic means a worldwide outbreak of disease. Pandemic influenza could lead to widespread illness and death around the world.



Pandemic influenza could change everyday life for a long time.

Many thousands of people may be sick and unable to work.

Schools could be closed. Government offices and businesses, including banks, could be closed. Places where people gather – like houses of worship – could be closed. Supplies, including gasoline and food – and services – could be limited. The last severe pandemic lasted 18 months.

What To Expect

It may be difficult to get medical care.

Hospitals and clinics could be overwhelmed with patients. Doctors and nurses could be sick, too.

Public health officials may recommend that people stay at home to reduce the spread of infection.

It will take months to develop a vaccine.

Medicine for flu symptoms may be in short supply.

Travel may be restricted.



What You Can Do Now

Educate yourself about pandemic influenza. Stay informed about new

developments. Get prepared: Visit njflupandemic.gov and download checklists to get

ready at home, work and school.



Talk to your family about how a pandemic could affect your household.

How would you care for sick family members? What if schools are closed?

Stock up with at least a two-week supply of food, water and prescription medications.

What would happen at your job if people could not report for work? Would you be able to work from home?

Find out what your community is doing and get involved in the planning process.



For more information visit:
www.njflupandemic.gov and
www.pandemicflu.gov.

