

Health Protection Agency

Pandemic Influenza Contingency Plan



Planning Checklist:
Centre for Radiation, Chemicals and
Environmental Hazards



HPA actions during an Influenza Pandemic by WHO Phase and UK Alert Level

Pandemic Influenza Planning Checklist

This edited version of the HPA Pandemic Influenza Contingency Plan has been produced to be used as a performance management tool by the Centre for Radiation, Chemicals and Environmental Hazards (CRCE).

It includes only those actions which are the responsibility of the CRCE.

Similar documents are being produced for the other Divisions and Centres across the Agency with responsibilities during the WHO Pandemic Phases and UK Alert Levels.

You should use this document as a tool to ensure you are able to respond at each of the WHO Phases and UK Alert Levels.

The full plan, including background information and details of the WHO Phases and UK Alert Levels, is available on the HPA website at:

http://www.hpa.org.uk/infections/topics_az/influenza/pandemic/fluplan.htm

Roles and responsibilities of the Centre for Radiation, Chemicals and Environmental Hazards

The Centre for Radiation, Chemicals and Environmental Hazards (CRCE) will provide staff to support HPA Centres and LaRS.

How to use this as a Performance Management Tool

Complete the third column under each phase with red, amber or green to indicate your level of preparedness:

Red = Action not started

Amber = Action in progress or partially completed

Green = Action completed

Review your pandemic preparedness regularly as planning progresses.

Please contact your local Health Emergency Planning Adviser if you have any queries about implementing the Plan, or the HPA Pandemic Influenza Office (pandemic.flu@hpa.org.uk) with scientific queries.

1. Actions* during the WHO Phases 1 & 2

WHO PHASES 1 & 2: INTERPANDEMIC PERIOD

Definition

Phase 1

No new influenza virus subtypes have been detected in humans. An influenza virus subtype that has caused human infection may be present in animals. If present in animals, the risk of human infection or disease is considered to be low.

Phase 2

No new influenza virus subtypes have been detected in humans. However, a circulating animal influenza virus subtype poses a substantial risk of human disease.

Action	Implementer	Red/Amber/Green
none		

3¹. Actions during the WHO Phase 3: Pandemic Alert Period

WHO PHASE 3: PANDEMIC ALERT PERIOD

Definition

Human infection(s) with a new subtype, but no new human-to-human spread, or at most rare instances of spread to a close contact

Action	Implementer	Red/Amber/Green
none		

4. Actions during the WHO Phase 4: Pandemic Alert Period

WHO PHASE 4: PANDEMIC ALERT PERIOD

Definition

Small cluster(s) with limited human-to-human transmission but spread is highly localised, suggesting that the virus is not well adapted to humans

Action	Implementer	Red/Amber/Green
Place relief staff on stand-by to provide support to and for potential deployment to Cfl and other HPA Centres and LaRS	Director of CRCE	

5. Actions during the WHO Phase 5: Pandemic Alert Period

WHO PHASE 5: PANDEMIC ALERT PERIOD

Definition

Large cluster(s) but human-to-human spread still localised, suggesting that the virus is becoming increasingly better adapted to humans, but may not yet be fully transmissible (substantial pandemic risk)

* The actions listed in each phase assume that the actions in the previous phase have been implemented. Where a phase or phases are passed over eg a move from Phase 4 direct to Phase 6, the actions in the intermediary phases should also be implemented.

¹ The section numbering moves directly to 3 in order to match WHO Phases

Action	Implementer	Red/Amber/Green
Open Emergency Operations Centre	Director of CRCE	

6.1². Actions during the WHO Phase 6: Pandemic Period, UK Alert Level 1

PHASE 6: PANDEMIC PERIOD, UK ALERT LEVEL 1		
Definition		
Pandemic phase: increased and sustained transmission in the general population		
Alert Level 1		
Virus/cases only outside the UK		

Action	Implementer	Red/Amber/Green
Provide staff to support, and deploy relief staff to, Cfl and other HPA centres and LaRS	Director of CRCE	

6.2 Actions during the WHO Phase 6: Pandemic Period, UK Alert Level 2

PHASE 6: PANDEMIC PERIOD, UK ALERT LEVEL 2		
Definition		
Pandemic phase: increased and sustained transmission in the general population		
Alert Level 2		
Virus isolated in the UK		

Action	Implementer	Red/Amber/Green
Provide staff to support, and deploy relief staff, to Cfl and other HPA Centres and LaRS as required	Director of CRCE	

6.3. Actions during the WHO Phase 6: Pandemic Period, UK Alert Levels 3 & 4

PHASE 6: PANDEMIC PERIOD, UK ALERT LEVEL 3 and 4		
Definition		
Pandemic phase: increased and sustained transmission in the general population		
Alert Level 3		
Outbreak(s) in the UK		
Alert Level 4		
Widespread pandemic activity in the UK		

Action	Implementer	Red/Amber/Green
none		

² In WHO Phase 6, the second digit of the section numbering denotes the UK Alert Level

6.4 Actions during the WHO Phase 6: End of the First Pandemic Wave

PHASE 6: END OF FIRST PANDEMIC WAVE

Definition

End of first pandemic wave; return to inter-pandemic period

Action	Implementer	Red/Amber/Green
Carry out internal debrief to contribute to the overall HPA debrief report	Director of CRCE	

6.5 Actions during the WHO Phase 6: Second or Subsequent Waves

PHASE 6: SECOND OR SUBSEQUENT WAVES

Definition

Based on past experience, a second wave of outbreaks caused by the new virus may be expected to occur in many countries

Action	Implementer	Red/Amber/Green
Review actions taken and adapt existing plans in the light of lessons learned	Director of CRCE	

7. Actions during the Post-Pandemic Period

POST-PANDEMIC PERIOD

Definition

WHO will announce when the pandemic period is over. In the UK the pandemic will be deemed to have ceased when the epidemiological indices have returned to background levels

Key planning assumptions

- This or a similar virus is likely to remain in circulation
- It may take months or even several years for some national services to recover

Action	Implementer	Red/Amber/Green
Evaluate the impact of the pandemic. Identify lessons learned and disseminate new scientific learning through appropriate channels	Director of CRCE	