



PREFACE

*I*nfluenza A viruses periodically cause worldwide epidemics, or pandemics, with high rates of illness and death. Advanced planning for a large scale and widespread health emergency is required to optimize health care delivery during a pandemic. Unlike other public welfare emergencies, an influenza pandemic will impact on multiple communities across Canada simultaneously. Each local jurisdiction must be prepared to respond in the context of uncertain availability of external resources and support. Therefore, contingency planning is required to mitigate the impact of an influenza pandemic through planning and preparation by the co-ordinated efforts of all orders of government in collaboration with their stakeholders.

The *Canadian Pandemic Influenza Plan* (the Plan) consists of an introduction and a background section, followed by the preparedness, response and recovery sections, which are consistent with the general principals of emergency response. Each section aims to assist and facilitate appropriate planning at all levels of government for the next influenza pandemic. The Centre for Infectious Disease Prevention and Control (CIDPC), Population and Public Health Branch (PPHB), Health Canada coordinated the development of the Plan in collaboration with the Centre for Emergency Preparedness and Response (CEPR), Health Canada, with direction from the Pandemic Influenza Committee (PIC).

The Plan and the annexed guidelines, checklists and other documents were developed to assist all jurisdictions with the main components of planning, including surveillance, vaccine programs, use of antivirals, health services, emergency services, public health measures and communications. The most effective public health intervention to mitigate the impact of a pandemic is through immunization with an effective vaccine against the novel virus, and, to a lesser extent, through the use of antiviral drugs. In addition, comprehensive planning requires that appropriate surveillance capacity is in place, and that the health sector, emergency services and communities as a whole are informed and equipped to deal with a pandemic.

The prevention and preparedness activities facilitate the response and recovery during and after an influenza pandemic. The response to a pandemic will require close cooperation between all levels of government. The response and recovery sections of the Plan were developed through a collaborative process between the Centre for Emergency Preparedness and Response, and the CIDPC, Health Canada. The response section of the Plan addresses the operational activities for an effective national response, including essential federal, provincial and territorial coordination. The recovery section provides guidance on coordinated post-event activities for the health and emergency response sectors.

The overall goal of pandemic influenza preparedness and response is first to minimize serious illness and overall deaths, and second to minimize societal disruption among Canadians as a result of an influenza pandemic.

The Plan is intended to be dynamic and iterative, and will be updated and revised regularly.

Canadian Pandemic Influenza Plan: Content Summary

Who does this plan address? →
Who is responsible for Pandemic Planning? →

Why is this an important health issue? →

What preparations are being made? →

What needs to happen in a comprehensive response? →

What will be involved in the recovery from a pandemic? →

- Preface
- Content Summary
- List of Annexes

I. Introduction

- Goal of Influenza Pandemic Preparedness and Response
- Overview of the Canadian Pandemic Influenza Plan
- Roles and Responsibilities
 - The Pandemic Influenza Committee
 - The Pre-Pandemic Period
 - The Pandemic Period
 - The Post-Pandemic Period

II. Background

- Epidemiology of Pandemic Influenza
- Estimated Impact of an Influenza Pandemic on Canadians
- Terminology
 - Pandemic Phases
 - List of Abbreviations
- Legal Considerations
- Ethical Considerations

III. Preparedness Section

- Introduction (to Preparedness Section)
 - Background
 - Populations under Federal Jurisdiction
- Components of the Preparedness Section
 - Surveillance
 - Vaccine Programs
 - Antivirals
 - Health Services Emergency Planning
 - Emergency Services
 - Public Health Measures
 - Communications
- Planning Activities by Components
 - Pandemic Planning Checklists

IV. Response Section

- Introduction (to Response Section)
- Phased Approach
- Experience to Date
- Key Response Activities by Pandemic Phase

V. Recovery Section

- Currently in development

Annexes

- See "List of Annexes"

← *Where can I find guidelines and supporting documentation?*

← *What principles and assumptions should planners consider?*

← *What are the outstanding issues?*

← *What response activities should take place during each phase?*

← *Where can I find specific/technical information?*