

Pandemic Influenza Planning



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*"The only thing harder than planning for
an emergency is explaining why you
didn't*

Past Service Continuity Planning/Events

- State Employee Strike
 - 2001
- Government Shut Down
 - 2005
- RNC
 - 2008
- Weather Emergencies
 - Each year



How is a Pandemic Different?

- Impact will be global
- Physical structures and technology are initially not affected
- Some notice, although it may be short
- May last 6-8 weeks
- Multiple waves likely
- **Staffing levels greatly affected**



Seasonal Influenza

- **Outbreak every year between November and April in Northern Hemisphere**
- **Vaccine available each year based on circulating strains**
- **Associated with about 36,000 deaths per year in US**
 - **Most deaths in persons 65 years old and older**
- **More than 225,000 hospitalizations per year in US**
 - **Half of hospitalizations in persons 65 and older**



Pandemic Influenza

- **Novel strain of virus**
- **Little to no immunity in the general public**
- **Virus infects all age groups**
- **The “novel” virus can spread easily person-person**
- **Spreads throughout multiple countries and continents**
- **More than one wave of influenza is likely**
- **Waves typically last 6-8 weeks**



Implications of a Pandemic

- Essential Services could be disrupted
 - Health care Facilities overwhelmed
 - Banks, stores, restaurants, government, post offices, transportation/delivery of food and fuel
 - Health care systems overwhelmed
- Community Mitigation Interventions (Social distancing) implemented
 - Schools may be closed
 - Large gatherings/meetings canceled
 - Mass transit services curtailed



Impacts on Employers



- Absenteeism could impact up to 40% of the workforce during the peak of the pandemic
 - Sick with flu
 - Caring for ill family member
 - Children at home if schools/daycares close
 - Afraid to come to work
- Increase in demand for certain services
- Essential supply chain disruptions

Hey, Wait...Remember me?

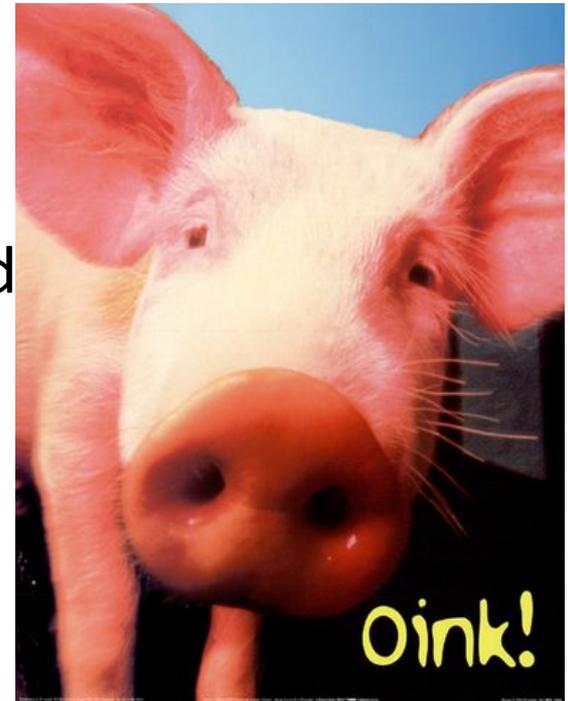
Avian or “Bird” Flu

- Also known as Highly Pathogenic (HP) H5N1
- Virus that affects birds
- Not easily transmitted from human to human
- Predominately occurring in SE Asian countries
- Could change and become a human pandemic
- Properly cooked/prepared poultry is not a risk



Swine Flu

- Respiratory disease of pigs caused by type A influenza viruses
- People do not normally get swine flu, but human infections can and do happen
- Swine flu viruses have been reported to spread from person-to-person, but in the past, this transmission was limited
- You can't get Swine Flu from eating pork



Novel H1N1 Influenza

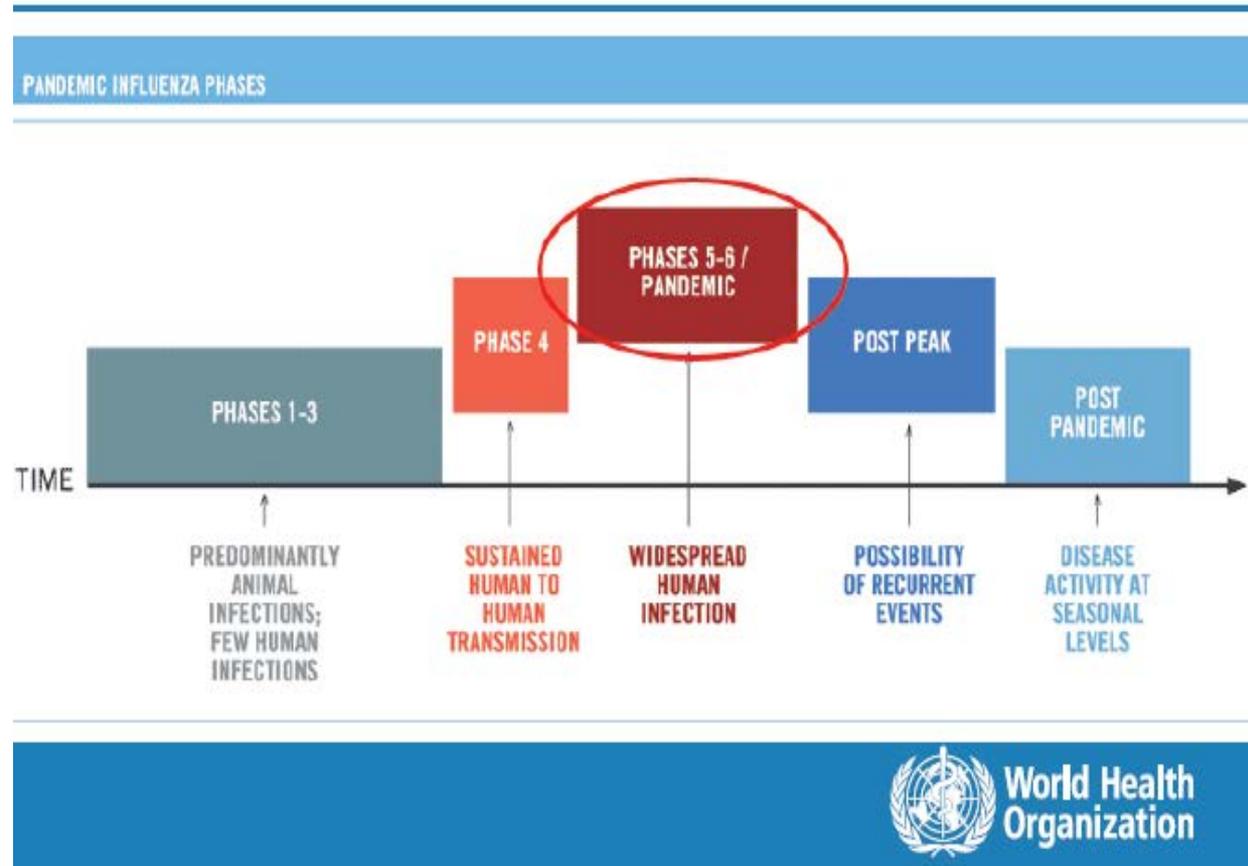
New influenza virus that is spreading from person-to-person.

Is a combination of several different strains: swine flu, bird flu and one strain of human flu.

Declaration of Public Health Emergency in the United States

World Health Organization has raised Pandemic level to Phase 6

WHO Pandemic Preparedness Phases



Signs and symptoms

Symptoms of Novel H1N1 flu in people are similar to those associated with seasonal flu.

- Fever
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Runny or stuffy nose
- Body aches
- Headache
- Chills
- Fatigue
- In addition, vomiting (25%) and diarrhea (25%) have been reported. (Higher rate than for seasonal flu.)



How does Novel H1N1 Influenza spread?



- This virus is thought to spread the same way seasonal flu spreads
- Primarily through respiratory droplets
 - Coughing
 - Sneezing
 - Touching respiratory droplets on yourself, another person, or an object, then touching mucus membranes (e.g., mouth, nose, eyes) without washing hands

Novel H1N1

- **Transmissibility similar or greater than seasonal influenza**
- **Severity similar to seasonal influenza although cases generally younger**
- **Underlying conditions: asthma, other respiratory conditions, obesity, diabetes, pregnancy, cardiovascular, neurological, and others**
- **Attack rates 25% in schools, 20% (US) to 40% (Chile) in households**

Novel H1N1 (cont.)

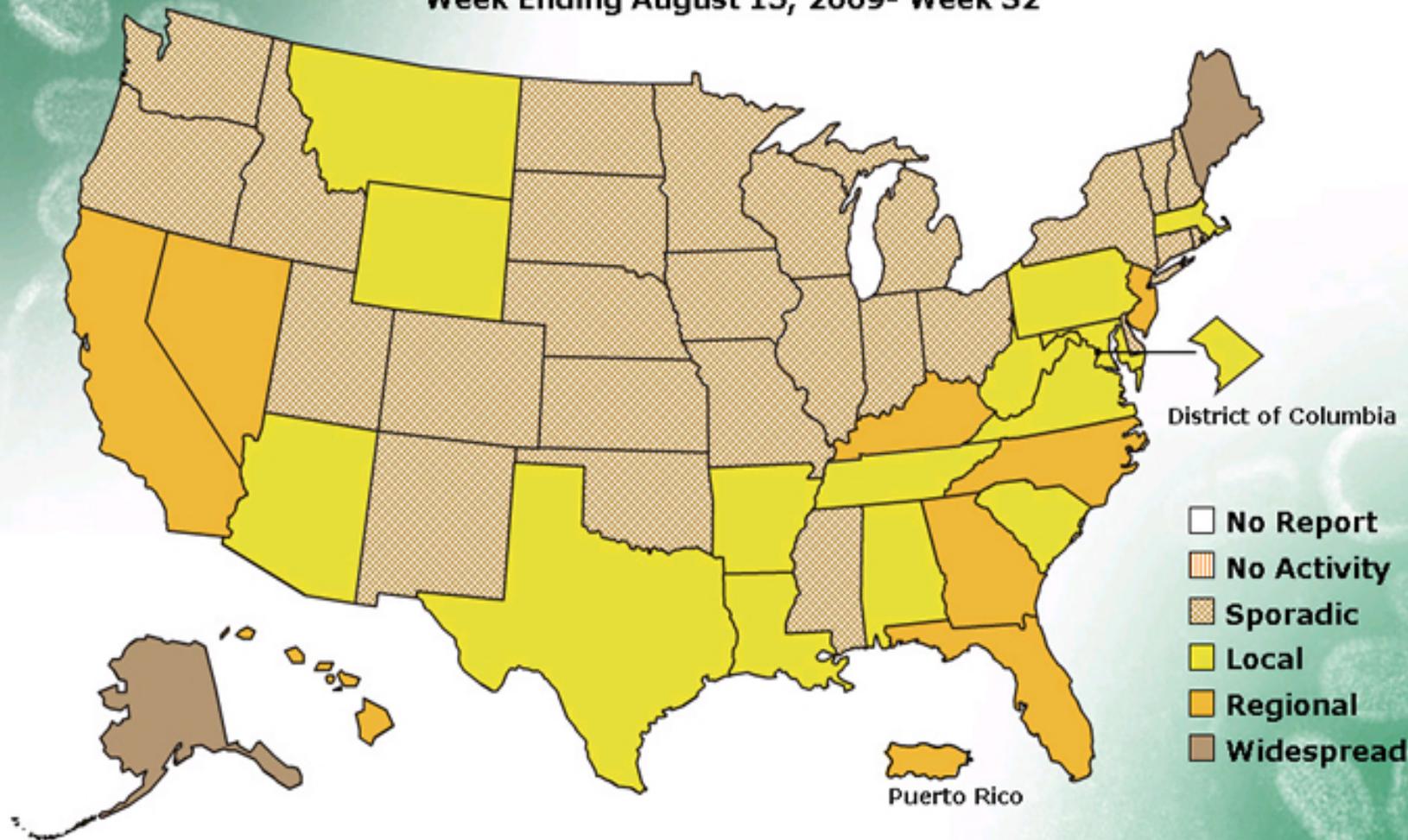
- **As of August 13 (last report), more than 182,000 confirmed cases and 1799 deaths reported to WHO**
 - WHO no longer requesting case counts from each country
- **As of July 10, more than 7,900 hospitalized cases and 522 deaths in US reported to CDC**
 - CDC no longer requesting probable or confirmed case counts, only hospitalized

FLUVIEW



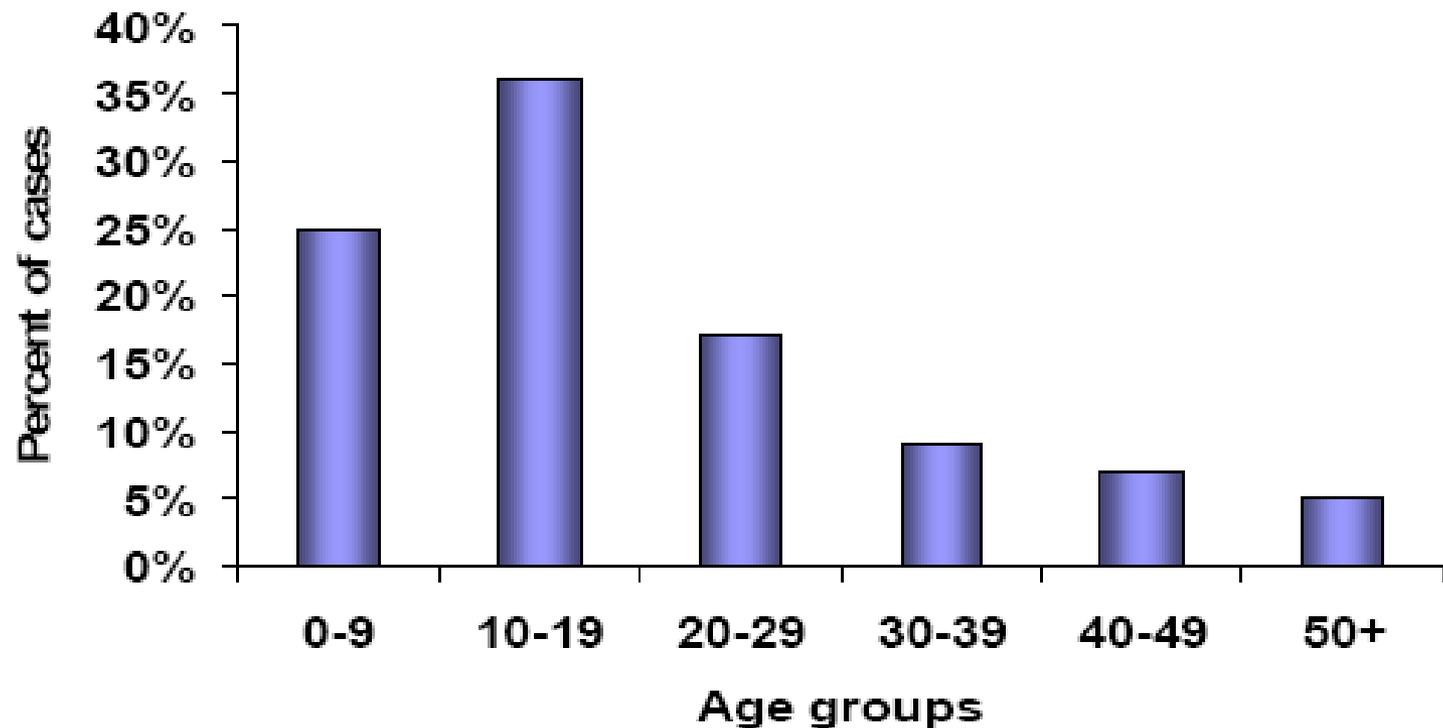
A Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report Prepared by the Influenza Division
Weekly Influenza Activity Estimates Reported by State and Territorial Epidemiologists*

Week Ending August 15, 2009- Week 32



*This map indicates geographic spread and does not measure the severity of influenza activity.

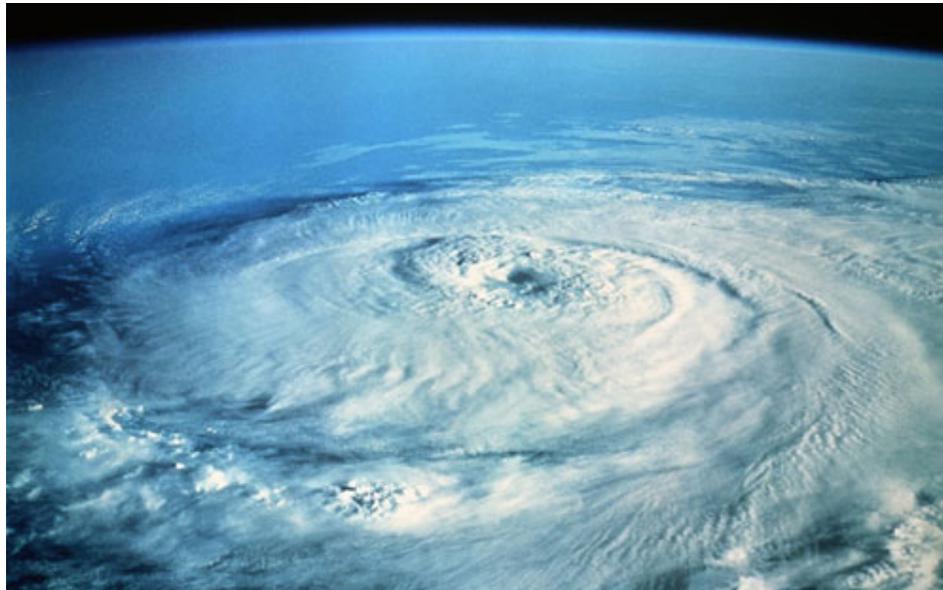
Pandemic H1N1 Cases by Age Group



H1N1 Cases in Minnesota: Preliminary Data

- **As of August 15: 259 hospitalized cases**
- **Median age 12 years (range 0-91 years)**
 - **30% in 0-4 year age, 40% 5-24 y , 17% 25-49 y**
- **Median length of stay: 3 days**
- **12% in ICU**
- **30% of hospitalized cases have asthma; 50% of hospitalized have an underlying condition**

Novel H1N1 and H5N1



What to Expect in the Fall

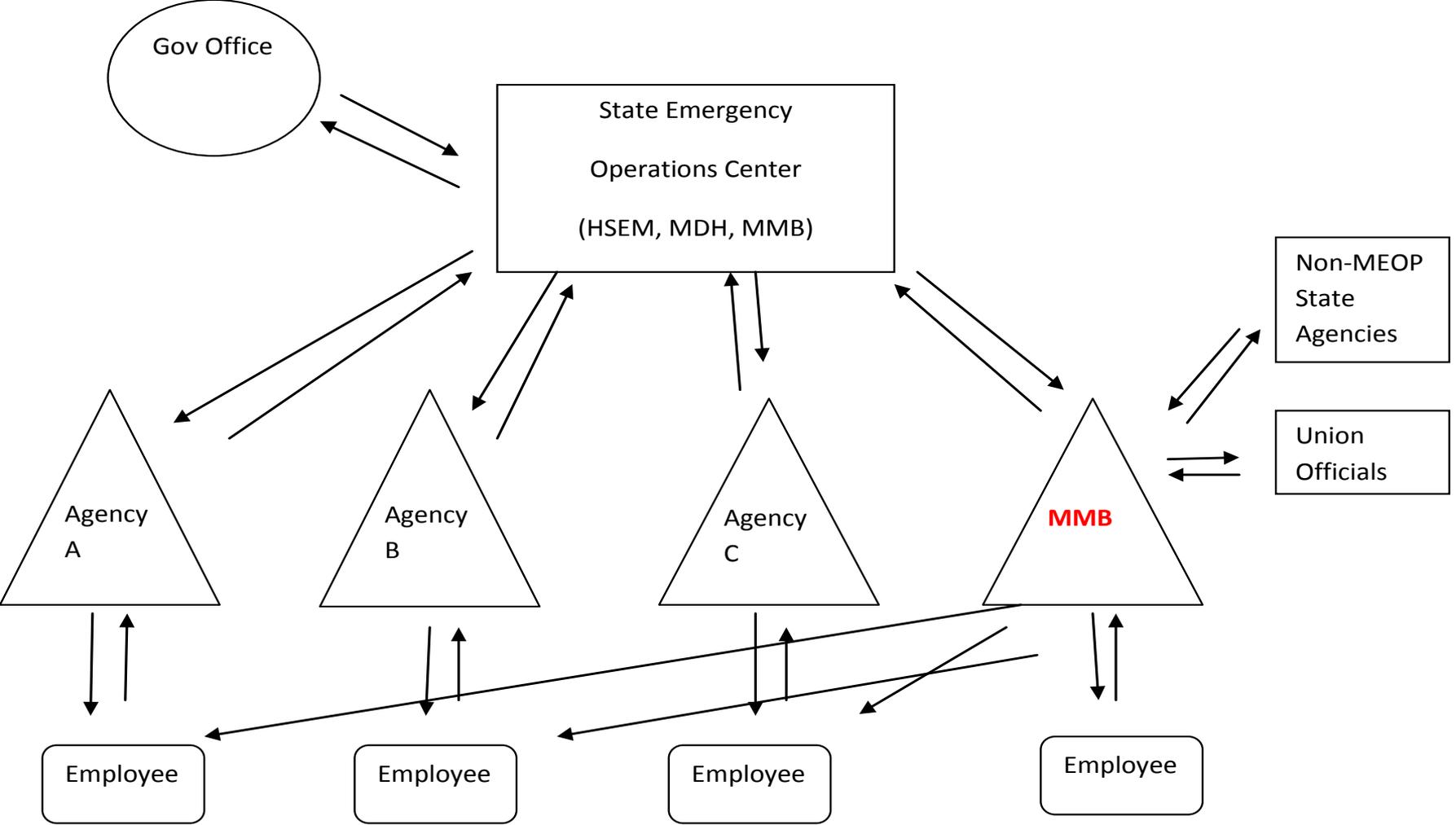
- **Be ready for change and confusion**
- **Potential scenarios:**
 - **Increased severity with novel H1N1**
 - Increased hospitalizations (overwhelm system)
 - Increased deaths
 - Burden of disease include many in younger age groups
 - **General increased burden of illness due to high level of influenza (seasonal plus novel); can also overwhelm medical system**

What about Vaccines?

- Vaccine will be voluntary
- Used to help reduce the impact and spread of novel H1N1
- Available in the fall
- Possible 2 shots, 4 weeks apart
- Targeted populations:
 - Pregnant women
 - People who live with or care for children < 6mos
 - Health care and Emergency Services personnel
 - Persons 6 mos-24 years of age
 - People 25-64 who are at high risk for Novel H1N1 due to chronic health disorders

What is the State Government Doing to Prepare?

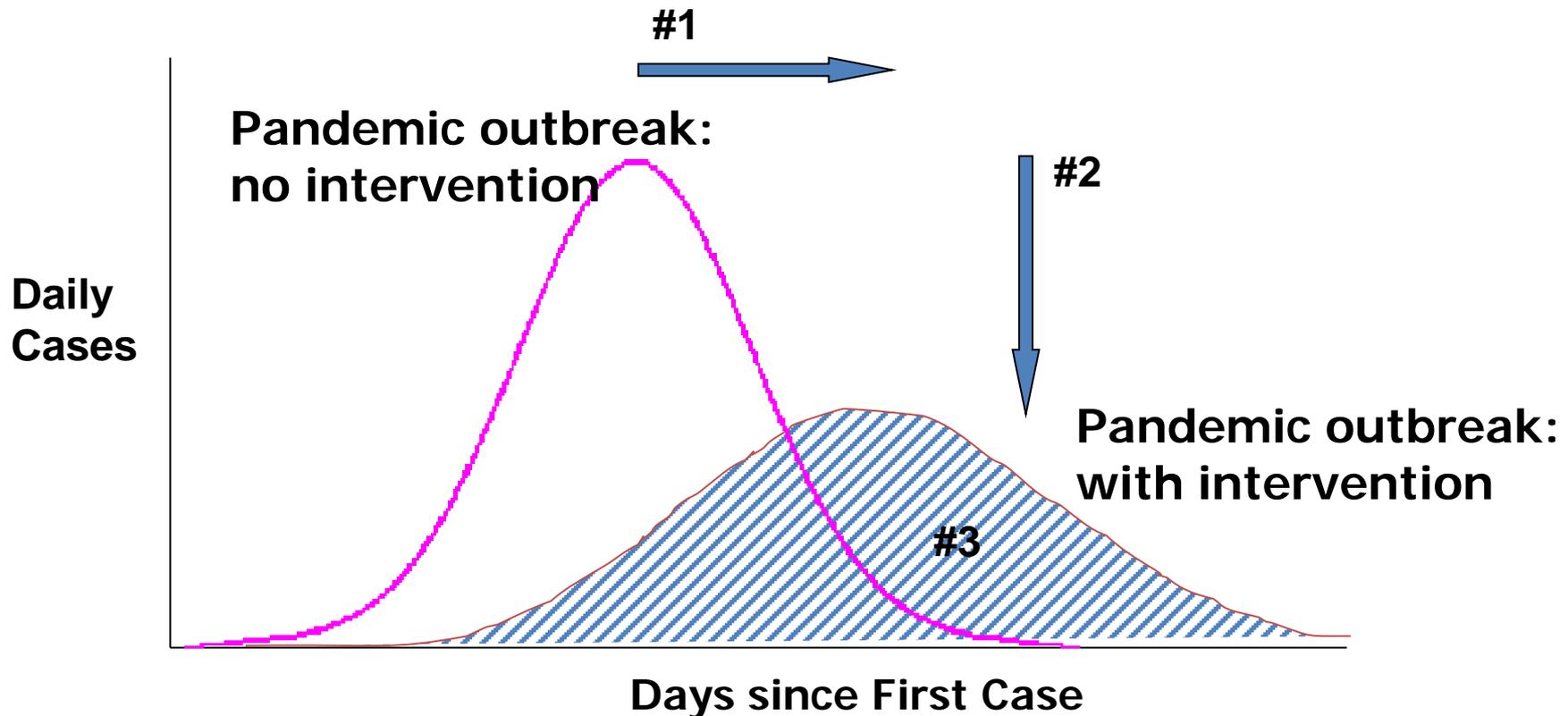
- Enhancing current plans
- Educating workforce
- Testing/exercising plans
- Creating supplies of essential items
- Modifying policies
- Working with partners (legislative, judicial, business, federal partners)



State of Minnesota Continuity Response & Communication Structure for State Agencies

Community-Based Interventions

1. Delay disease transmission and outbreak peak
2. Decompress peak burden on healthcare infrastructure
3. Diminish overall cases and health impacts



Respiratory Etiquette

Coughs and Sneezes Spread Diseases



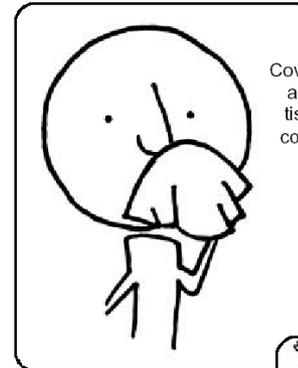
As Dangerous as Poison Gas Shells

SPREAD OF SPANISH INFLUENZA MENACES OUR WAR PRODUCTION

U. S. Public Health Service Begins Na-
tion-wide Health Campaign.

Stop the spread of germs that make you and others sick!

Cover your Cough



Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve, not your hands.



Put your used tissue in the waste basket.



You may be asked to put on a surgical mask to protect others.

Clean your Hands

after coughing or sneezing.



Wash with soap and water

or clean with alcohol-based hand cleaner.



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What Can You Do?

- **Encourage vaccinations and healthy living**
 - **Seasonal influenza and when available-pandemic influenza vaccines**
 - **Ensure other vaccinations as per recommendations**
 - **Ensure underlying medical conditions addressed**
- **Be ready for increased absences, illnesses and potential closure of public places, schools and businesses, social distancing**
- **Be ready for increased stress and anxiety**
- **Encourage/create workplace support teams**
 - **State Agency Psychological First Aid Training-September 14, 15**

What Can You Do?

- **Update 24/7 emergency contact**
- **Review plans for family**
- **Stay informed:**
 - www.flu.gov
 - www.cdc.gov
 - www.health.state.mn.us
 - www.bereadymn.com

By working together and staying informed we
can make it through



Questions?



For more information

- Emergency preparedness
 - [MN Homeland Security and Emerg. Management](#)
 - [Ready.gov](#)
 - [Red Cross](#)
- Human Resources and Continuity Planning
 - [BeReadyMN.com](#)
- Pandemic influenza
 - [Centers for Disease Control](#)
 - [MN Department of Health](#)