

SEASONAL FLU vs PANDEMIC INFLUENZA

There are some key differences in how seasonal flu happens and how pandemic influenza happens.

SEASONAL FLU

- Usually follows a predictable pattern, typically between October and May each year.
- Healthy adults are not usually at risk for serious complications.
- The medical community can usually meet public and patient needs.
- Vaccines are developed before the flu season, based on known virus strains anticipated to be circulating during the flu season.
- Supplies of antiviral drugs are usually available.
- Average number of deaths in the U.S. is about 36,000 a year.
- Regular flu symptoms include fever, cough, sore throat, muscle pain, and tiredness.
- Has a small impact on the community with sick people staying home from work and school.
- Small impact on U.S. and world economy.

PANDEMIC INFLUENZA

- Doesn't happen often—only three times in the 20th century. The last time was 1968.
- Healthy people, as well as those with underlying medical conditions, may be at risk for serious complications.
- The medical community will be overwhelmed and may play a different role than we currently experience.
- Once an effective vaccine is developed, it may not be available for several months and will likely require 2 doses. There is no vaccine available at this time.
- May not have any effective antiviral drugs or the supply may be limited.
- The number of deaths would be much higher than seasonal flu; worldwide, it could be millions.
- Symptoms would be more serious; there would be more medical complications.
- Big impact on the community. There could be travel restrictions, school closings, limited business hours or closings, and cancellation of public gatherings.
- Could have a big impact on U.S. and world economy.

LEARN MORE

Stay up-to-date on a possible pandemic influenza by listening to radio and television and reading news stories about pandemic influenza.

www.statehealth.in.gov

for general statewide regional and local information about pandemic influenza

www.cdc.gov

for general information about pandemic influenza and other health related information

www.pandemicflu.gov

for updates on national and international pandemic influenza

For Travel Information and Warnings

www.cdc.gov/travel/destinat.htm

for health related travel information

www.who.int/

for health related travel information and international disease outbreak information

www.travel.state.gov

for general travel warnings