

1.0 Purpose

The purpose of this Plan is to reduce morbidity and mortality, provide continuity of operations and position the state for recovery if attacked by a novel influenza virus that causes large numbers of illnesses and deaths throughout New Jersey.

2.0 Authority

Development of this Plan is the responsibility of the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, activation of this Plan is by the Governor of the State of New Jersey or his designated authority, and enactment of this Plan is through the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management (OEM). NJDHSS is the Lead Agency for the Plan.

3.0 Situation

According to world and federal health officials, there exists an increased risk of a global influenza pandemic. This infectious disease is capable of claiming thousands of lives and adversely affecting critical infrastructure and key resources. Of major significance is the pandemic's ability to reduce the health, safety, and welfare of the essential services workforce; immobilize core infrastructure; and induce fiscal instability.

All infrastructure and commercial sectors are susceptible to the effects of an influenza pandemic and all may experience the resulting severe disruption and impediments to the continuity of civil services and commercial operations. The dependence of sectors on each other may add to the disease a force multiplying effect as all sectors experience pandemic consequences nearly simultaneously and lose the ability to provide mutual support. Without an immediate and effective response to a pandemic, a critical health-focused situation may lead to a temporary collapse of government, business and society.

Long term results can be considerable. New Jersey must be prepared to respond aggressively and immediately to a pandemic threat as any unchecked pandemic might result in disruption of local and state infrastructures. The effect of a pandemic on the private sector, which provides the majority of critical infrastructure, is potentially significant.

Although prominent in news and discussion, the current national readiness for an influenza pandemic is insufficient. Only sustained planning, training and exercise of contingency operations across public, private and volunteer sectors will help to reduce the potential of a catastrophic pandemic disaster.

4.0 Strategy

This plan provides New Jersey with the framework for governmental and private response to an infectious disease capable of claiming thousands of lives and affecting critical infrastructure. The plan provides governmental and commercial entities a common understanding of the conditions, expectations, responsibilities and activities of organizations responsible for the survival of the state's residents and infrastructure should a pandemic occur.

The Plan is based on health and supporting agency responses to a pandemic as defined by the World Health Organization phases and federal pandemic influenza stages and further defined by

New Jersey pandemic Situations. The State’s Situations are similar, however, not identical to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Federal Government Response stages. Transition from one Situation to another indicates a change in activities of one or more NJ agencies.

Federal		NJ Situations	
0	New domestic animal outbreak in at-risk country	No/Little Human spread	NJ SITUATION 1 Novel (new) influenza virus in birds or other animal outside the U.S.
			NJ SITUATION 2 Novel (new) influenza virus in birds or other animal in the U.S. / N.J.
1	Suspected Human Outbreak overseas		NJ SITUATION 3 Human case of novel (new) influenza virus outside of the U.S.
2	Confirmed Human Outbreak overseas	Human-Human spread	NJ SITUATION 4 Human -to-human spread of novel (new) influenza outside the U.S. (no widespread human transmission)
			SITUATION 5 Clusters of human cases outside the U.S.
3	Widespread human outbreak in multiple locations overseas		
4	First Human Case in North America		NJ SITUATION 6 Human case of novel (new) influenza virus (no human spread) in the U.S. /N.J.
5	Spread in U.S.		NJ SITUATION 7 First case of human to human spread of novel (new) influenza in the U.S. / N.J.
			NJ SITUATION 8 Clusters of cases of human spread in the U.S./N.J.
			NJ SITUATION 9 Widespread cases of human to human spread of novel (new) influenza outside the U.S./NJ
6	Recovery and Preparation for subsequent waves		NJ SITUATION 10 Reduced spread of influenza or end of pandemic

Figure 1 Comparison of Federal and New Jersey Pandemic Influenza Phases and Situations

4.1 Pandemic Severity Index

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Community Strategy for Pandemic Influenza Mitigation guidance introduces a Pandemic Severity Index which uses the case fatality ratio as the critical driver for categorizing the severity of a pandemic (See Figure 2). The index is designed to enable estimation of the severity of a pandemic on a population to allow better forecasting of the impact of a pandemic and to enable recommendations on the use of mitigation interventions that are matched to the severity of influenza pandemic.

Pandemics will be assigned to one of five discrete categories of increasing severity (Category 1 to Category 5).

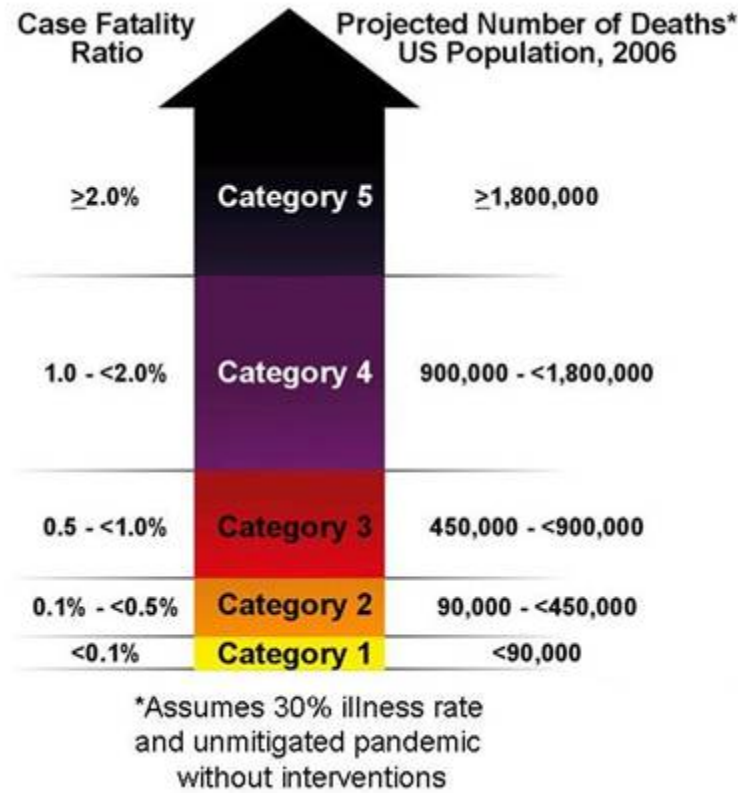


Figure 2 Pandemic Influenza Severity Index

5.0 Assumptions

This Plan provides for common assumptions to ensure that governmental and private sectors are provided a standard framework for pandemic planning and response. This consistency is necessary for the development of a universal New Jersey plan that accounts for the interdependence of sectors during routine and emergency operations.

Federal Assumptions

1. An influenza pandemic will most likely originate overseas and not in the United States.
2. Susceptibility to the pandemic influenza virus will be nearly universal.
3. Efficient and sustained person-to-person transmission will signal an imminent pandemic.
4. The clinical disease attack rate will likely be 30 percent or higher. Illness rates will be highest among school-aged children (about 40 percent) and decline with age. Among working adults, an average of 20 percent will become ill within a community.