



Ottawa's Interagency Influenza Pandemic Plan Health Organizations and Professionals Play a Front Line Role

- Experts estimate that an influenza pandemic could affect between 15 and 35 per cent of the population. In Ottawa, a 35 per cent infection rate would have a serious impact on the city's functioning: almost 300,000 residents would be sick, 157,000 would seek medical assessment, 3,500 would be hospitalized and 780 could die.
- Ottawa's Interagency Influenza Pandemic Plan was developed to help curtail serious illness and death and to minimize societal disruption in the event of an influenza pandemic. A coordinated response among local players is essential to achieve these goals.
- Health professionals and health organizations will be at the front-line of Ottawa's response during an influenza pandemic. Ottawa's Interagency Influenza Pandemic Plan spells out some key actions that stakeholders in the health sector can take before, during and after an influenza pandemic, as follows.

Before a pandemic

- ✓ Update your own pandemic plan, taking into account Ottawa's overarching plan
- ✓ Plan to meet the increased demand for health professionals and services in an environment where human resource capacity will be challenged
- ✓ Plan how you will maintain your essential services during an influenza pandemic
- ✓ Establish a one-month supply of personal protective equipment
- ✓ Routinely screen for respiratory infections and report cases to Ottawa Public Health
- ✓ Stay informed – register for the *Pandemic E-News* bulletin at ottawa.ca/pandemicinfo to receive information on the current local situation and directives from the Medical Officer of Health

During a pandemic

- ✓ Provide clinical care while protecting yourself
 - Provide clinical assessment and treatment services to patients with influenza-like illness
 - Provide immunization and distribute antivirals
 - Adopt best practices in respiratory infection control, including wearing personal protective equipment when assessing and treating affected patients
 - Open up additional designated primary care sites as required
- ✓ Assist with surveillance by conducting febrile respiratory illness screening and reporting any outbreak activity, cases or deaths to Ottawa Public Health
- ✓ Comply with self-quarantine if necessary



- ✓ Stay abreast of the situation using local and provincial sources such as:
 - The Health Care Providers Hotline: 1-866-212-2272 and [Important Health Notices from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care](#)
 - The *Pandemic E-News* bulletin from Ottawa Public Health
- ✓ Assist with dissemination of public education materials to clients
- ✓ Provide accurate, timely communication to staff, as well as psychosocial support as required

After a pandemic

- ✓ Debrief and evaluate your organization's response. Document and report as needed.
 - ✓ Prepare for the next wave, which may occur within three to nine months of the initial outbreak and may also last approximately eight weeks.
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- The resources and capacity of all players are limited. An influenza pandemic will not only place increased demands upon all services, but also challenge human resource capacity in all sectors. Within this context, it is understood that health professionals will fulfill their assigned responsibilities to the best of their ability.
 - Having a strategy and protocols in place will enable Ottawa to tackle this emergency quickly and effectively when it comes. Ottawa's Interagency Influenza Pandemic Committee strongly encourages all partners to use the overarching plan to inform their own emergency planning.

You can access the full plan at

ottawa.ca/pandemicinfo