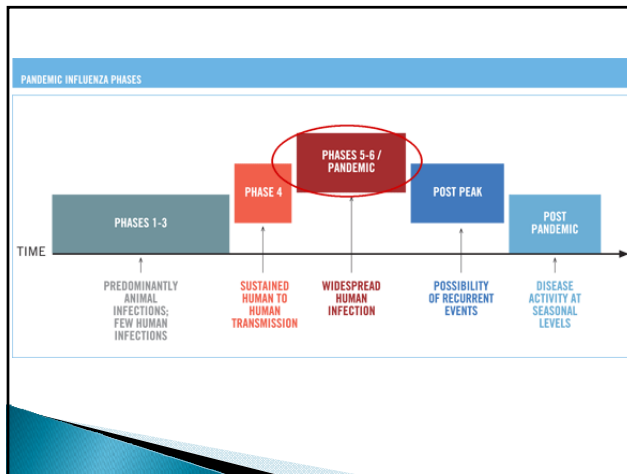


# PANDEMIC PLANNING

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Chair, Pandemic Contingency Planning Committee



## Pandemic

**INFLUENZA**  
FREQUENTLY COMPLICATED WITH  
**PNEUMONIA**  
IS PREVALENT AT THIS TIME THROUGHOUT AMERICA.  
THE THING TO COOPERATE WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
**YOU MUST DO THE SAME**  
IF YOU WANT A WELL AND UNDISTURBED LIFE  
WHICH IS THE BEST YOUR INTERESTS  
**GO HOME AND GO TO BED UNTIL YOU ARE WELL.**

Consideration of influenza will not be  
discussed in detail. However, the only way  
to avoid it is to stay at home and  
avoid all the contacts of outside  
persons during the attack of the  
disease.

**HELP US TO KEEP CHICAGO THE  
HEALTHIEST CITY IN THE WORLD**  
JOHN DILL ROBERTSON  
COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH

occurring over a wide geographic area and affecting an exceptionally high proportion of the population

- Miriam Webster

## A Brief History of Pandemics

Thucydides

The Peloponnesian War Pestilence  
430 B.C.

1/3 of population of Sparta  
wiped out by (still unknown) disease

## A Brief History of Pandemics



Claudius Galen

The Antonin Plague, 165 A.D.

Killed over 5,000 Romans a day, 5 million people over the next 15 years

1 of many smallpox epidemics and pandemics between 10,000 BC and 20<sup>th</sup> century

## A Brief History of Pandemics



The Plague of Justinian 541-542 AD

Killed 1/2 population of Constantinople and 1/4 of population of Eastern Mediterranean

First of many bubonic plague outbreaks, Black Plague of Europe most famous

## A Brief History of Pandemics



Cholera

7 epidemics 1816-1970

Killed millions in India 1817-1860

## 20<sup>th</sup> century - Influenza Pandemics

Pandemic Flu	Year
Spanish	1918-1919
Asian	1957-1958
Hong Kong	1968-1969



## Death Tolls

Year	Deaths (worldwide)
1918-1919	40 million
1957-1958	2 million
1968-1969	1 million
Other years (seasonal flu)	250,000 to 500,000



## Similarities

- ▶ AH1N1 pandemic most similar to 1957-59?
  - Developed in the spring (1<sup>st</sup> wave)
  - Slowly seeded in communities during summer
  - Rapidly spread once schools opened
  - Peak in mid October (2<sup>nd</sup> wave)
  - Infection rate 20 - 40%
  - Absenteeism highest in schools
  - Minimal effect on absenteeism elsewhere

## Differences

- ▶ In 2009 news of the virus spreads faster than virus itself
- ▶ More time to prepare
- ▶ More ways to communicate
- ▶ Better understanding of the disease
- ▶ Vaccine to arrive before 3<sup>rd</sup> wave, perhaps before end of 2<sup>nd</sup>?

## More Differences

- ▶ Better understanding of controls
  - Hand hygiene
  - Respiratory protection
- ▶ Better application of controls?
  - Are we more hygienic?
  - Will N-95's work better?
  - Will hand sanitizers help?



## More Opportunities

- ▶ Better technology to work at a distance
  - Home office
  - Remote access (remote desktop, VPN)
  - Lecture recording
  - Web-based courses

## What is McGill doing to Prepare?

- ▶ We already have a plan
- ▶ And a plan developer (Claude Lahaie)
- ▶ And committees
  - Emergency Operations Centre (EOC)
  - Emergency Measures Group (PMG)

## So we formed a “smaller” committee

### Pandemic Contingency Planning Group

**Pierre Barbarie**, Associate Director – University Safety (Security Services)  
**Dr. Tim Brewer**, Director – International Health Office  
**Rebecca Dooley**, SSMU V-P University Affairs  
**Rosalia Felice**, (Recording Secretary), Communications Officer – V-P (A&F)  
**Sylvia Franke**, Chief Information Officer  
**Claude Lahale**, Associate Director – University Safety (EM&FP)  
**Josephine Leake**, Senior Director – HR Professional Services  
**Cynthia Leive**, Head Librarian – Music Library (Marvin Duchow)  
**Dr. R. Bruce Lennox**, Chair, Department of Chemistry  
**Michael Porritt**, Executive Director, Residences  
**Louise Savard**, Director – University Safety  
**Doug Sweet**, Director – Media Relations  
**Dr. Pierre-Paul Teller**, Director – Medical Education and Student Affairs  
**Robyn Wiltshire**, Director – Deputy Provost (Student Life and Learning)  
**Wayne Wood** (Chair), Associate Director – University Safety (EHS)

## Contingency Plans

- ▶ Templates developed and issued to all departments
- ▶ Collected by HR
- ▶ Prepare for absenteeism of 35%?

## Other Contingencies

- ▶ Residences caring for students
- ▶ Student Health “surge protection”
- ▶ Medical FAQ
- ▶ Absenteeism FAQ
- ▶ Flexible policies re: courses, classes, exams, work assignments



“What we assuredly have is an outbreak of unpublished research causing an epidemic of confusion”

– Ross Upshur, Director, University of Toronto Joint Centre for Bioethics and Primary-Care

## Messaging

- ▶ Personal flu plan
- ▶ Education:
  - [www.mcgill.ca/health](http://www.mcgill.ca/health)
  - posters
  - presentations
  - correspondence
  - meetings
  - briefings...



## IT Solutions

- ▶ Ramp up WebCT server capacity
- ▶ WebCT training
- ▶ Social distancing may = telecommuting
- ▶ Most IT professionals ready to set up at home
- ▶ Lecture recording support
- ▶ Support critical functions, defer others



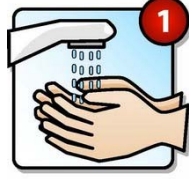
## Cleaning Solutions

- ▶ Training re: cleaning and disinfection methods for cleaning staff
  - doubled during outbreak
  - tripled during pandemic
- ▶ Disinfection of high-touch areas
  - doubled during outbreak
  - tripled during pandemic
- ▶ Coughing and sneezing etiquette



## Mind those Hands

- ▶ Handwash campaign (posters)
- ▶ Hand Sanitizers
  - Portable stations for events
  - Fixed stations at entrances/high traffic areas
  - Refill reservoirs in Residences
  - Personal bottle for community – “the first one’s on us!”



## What is “critical”?

- ▶ Taking care of our residents
- ▶ Protecting our community
- ▶ Protecting our property and collections
- ▶ Protecting the environment



## Monitoring the Situation



## Remain Calm Thank you! <sup>But not complacent</sup>



- Maximize the benefits:
- ✓ Improved hand and respiratory hygiene
  - ✓ Cleaning and disinfection
  - ✓ Emergency preparedness
  - ✓ Business continuity



### Resources

[www.mcgill.ca/health](http://www.mcgill.ca/health)  
(514) 398-4506  
info.mcgill@mcgill.ca