

# Canadian Pandemic Influenza Plan for the Health Sector 2006

## Relevant Clauses

### Section Three: Preparedness

#### **2.5 Public Health Measures**

Certain decisions will have to be made at each level of government as novel virus and pandemic alerts occur. Local public health officials will be asked about measures that can be taken by the public and within a community to prevent, control or mitigate pandemic influenza in their jurisdictions. These decisions will range from population-based recommendations (e.g. canceling public gatherings, closing schools) to individual measures (e.g. if members of the public should wear masks). For the most part, the effectiveness of these types of measures for the control of disease within a population has not been systematically evaluated. In addition, the potential impact of these measures will vary depending on the level of pandemic activity in the particular community and the availability of other interventions, such as vaccines and antivirals. The purpose and effectiveness of these measures may also be different in isolated communities compared with large urban centres.

The implications of these potential measures, which range from local school closures to quarantine recommendations for ports of entry into Canada, must be recognized by all potential stakeholders and discussed during the Interpandemic Period.

The objectives of public health measures planning are to:

- Make recommendations regarding public health measures (e.g. quarantine, cancellation of public gatherings, school closures).
- Foster the development of a common approach in Canada and also, if possible, between other countries and Canada, especially on issues for which there is a lack of scientific evidence to guide decision making.
- Encourage planning at all levels of government to raise awareness about the potential impact of these measures so that the necessary partnerships and consultations with external stakeholders start during the Interpandemic Period and continue through all pandemic phases.

### Annex G: Clinical Care Guidelines and Tools

#### **1.2 Ethics of clinical care during public health emergencies**

On the basis of the six ethical principles outlined in the CPIP, health care planners and clinicians will want to consider the need for the following:

- **Use the least restrictive means.** Health measures needed to minimize the risk of infectious disease in a population should be reasonable and use the least restrictive means possible. This relates to measures that may restrict personal autonomy in the interest of curbing the spread of disease.
- **Optimize the risk-benefit ratio** of public health interventions to favour the common

good. This includes not only an assessment of evidence and safety but of all possible risks, such as opportunity costs and logistical challenges, as well as all possible benefits.

### **Annex M: Public Health Measures**

*This section in its entirety is relevant to restrictive measures. You can download Annex M as a PDF file from: <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/cpip-pclcpi/>*

Source: Public Health Agency of Canada (2006). Canadian Pandemic Influenza Plan for the Health Sector. Available from <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/cpip-pclcpi/>