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IN THIS ISSUE

- CanPREP News & Updates
- CanPREP attending the Canadian Pandemic Preparedness Meeting
- Pandemic News
- New Publications
- Books
- *Feature: Abide With Me: A Story of Two Pandemics*
- Upcoming Events and Conferences
- Other

Welcome to the CanPREP Pandemic Digest, a monthly summary of key pandemic headlines, events, and learning opportunities for collaborators and students. If you have questions, comments or contributions, please contact us at canprep@gmail.com. Previous editions are available at the [CanPREP archives](#).

CanPREP NEWS AND UPDATES

Protect Yourself! Educating the Public about Pandemic Influenza

In order to reduce infection and death during influenza pandemics, public health bodies worldwide have developed comprehensive pandemic public education campaigns. The Canadian pandemic public education plans strongly advocate individual and family practices to prevent infection and stop further transmission, such as hand-washing, vaccination, and respiratory etiquette. From a social and political perspective the focus on individual infection control techniques is problematic, particularly as the social and structural factors behind influenza pandemics go unmentioned. Thus, the ways in which pandemic flu is represented in official pandemic education messages shapes the way we view the pandemic scenario and ourselves, collectively and individually, within it.



British Sociological Association

CanPREP researcher Laena Maunula will be presenting her paper at the 42nd annual conference of the BSA Medical Sociology Group at the University of Durham, UK. This paper provides an overview of the goals for pandemic public education outlined in several Canadian pandemic plans, and examines how infection control is invoked within those texts. Drawing from Foucault's notions of governmentality and technologies of the self, a theoretical critique of those public education strategies will also be given. This study contributes to understanding how pandemic preparedness and infection control is represented in Canadian pandemic plans, how public health shapes pandemic messages for the public, and the implications of those messages for subjectivity and notions of citizenship.

Click [here](#) for the entire Conference Program and more information.

Canadian Pandemic Preparedness Meeting: Outcomes, Impacts and Lessons Learned

On November 12th and 13th, Canadian pandemic researchers will be coming together for the Canadian Pandemic Preparedness Meeting in Montreal, QC. This meeting is held by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research Institute of Infection and Immunity (CIHR-III), which is leading the Pandemic Preparedness Strategic Research Initiative (PPSRI) in collaboration with stakeholders and partners. The aim is to develop a coordinated and focused research effort and to build influenza and pandemic preparedness research capacity in Canada.

The goal of this meeting is to provide an opportunity for Canadian pandemic and influenza researchers to share their research findings, develop collaborations with other scientists, and discuss the future of pandemic research in Canada.

The CanPREP project will be presenting multiple posters which will emphasize the importance of ethical considerations and public engagement during pandemic preparedness initiatives. We will also be highlighting many of our research themes and findings at this year's meeting through multiple poster presentations. These include presentations on thematic group findings (priority setting, duty to care, restrictive measures, global governance), the overall CanPREP research design, and national survey results. Exact presentation topics, along with presenter names, will be provided in upcoming newsletters.

For more information on the Canadian Pandemic Preparedness Meeting, or to register, visit <http://www.ppsri-irscip.ca/>

CanPREP at the 12th American Society For Bioethics and Humanities Annual Meeting

The 12th annual American Society For Bioethics and Humanities (ASBH) Conference will be held from October 21st - 24th 2010 in San Diego, California. This year's meeting will focus on addressing health, disability, and disease as it affects local, national, and global groups. Healthcare professionals, researchers, humanists, and lawyers, are asked to bring experiences, expertise, and interests that shape the understanding of the health of communities as it informs and is informed by ethics, law, politics, medicine, and the humanities.

CanPREP has been accepted to present two of its research topics at this year's ASBH meeting! One will be a workshop titled '*Engaging Communities in Disaster Planning: A Workshop Demonstrating the Applicability of Town Halls for Public Engagement and Planning.*' This workshop will discuss the importance of public engagement and the role it plays in ethical deliberation. Workshop attendees will participate in our case study focus group methodology, which will highlight the beneficial tools available for the public engagement of ethical issues. Further, we will compare and contrast our key findings and implications from our national study, town hall, and stakeholder forums, which are reflections of Canadian citizens, health care professionals, policy-makers, researchers, and so-called vulnerable populations, with those workshop participants.



The second accepted research topic is in CanPREP's engagement with older adult populations. In the second session titled '*Pandemic Planning and Response: Engaging the Elderly,*' the importance of public engagement with vulnerable populations and the role this plays in ethical deliberation will be discussed. Further, key findings from CanPREP focus groups with elderly adults will be reported and these results will be compared and contrasted with the findings from our population Town Hall Fora, stakeholder consultation, and national population-based surveys.

PANDEMIC NEWS

[WHO Disease Outbreak News: Swine influenza - Daily Situation Update](#)

World Health Organization

Daily Influenza A (H1N1) Update. Update includes worldwide confirmed cases and deaths, along with WHO travel recommendations.

[ProMED-Mail – The Program for Monitoring Emerging Diseases](#)

A global electronic reporting system for outbreaks of emerging infectious diseases & toxins, open to all sources. Subscribe to daily email updates. ProMED-mail is a program of the [International Society for Infectious Diseases](#).

[Cases of H1N1 Flu Virus in Canada](#)

Public Health Agency of Canada

A detailed daily update of swine flu cases in Canada – updated bi-weekly.

[As swine flu pandemic ends, Canada must rethink flu-fighting strategy: expert](#)

The Edmonton Journal

"We need to be prepared to shift rather quickly our seasonal flu programs to reflect that new reality," said Dr. Kumanan Wilson, Canada research chair in public health policy at the University of Ottawa. "It's a new disease. It's not the same disease as we've been treating. It's a disease that affects a different population with a different mortality rate."

[H1N1 is over, but the next pandemic awaits](#)

The Globe and Mail

Public health officials fear that avian flu, a virus that normally infect only birds and pigs, could be it. This contagious disease is species-specific, but has, on rare occasions, crossed the species barrier. More than half of humans infected with the virus have died.

[Swine flu pandemic fizzled, but alarm was still justified](#)

The Vancouver Sun

So was this a case of health officials crying wolf? Should we have been concerned enough to buy millions of doses of vaccine, much of which will now be destroyed? Were people wasting their time waiting hours in lineups for a shot? Were we subjected to a vaccine that was riskier than the disease it was designed to keep at bay, as so many bloggers claimed?

[The Vaccine War](#) (Frontline Video)

PBS Video

Episode: The Vaccine War

Inside the raging debate: risks v. benefits, and parents' right to make choices about their child v. the needs of a community.

[More stakeholder engagement is needed to improve quality of research, say US experts](#)

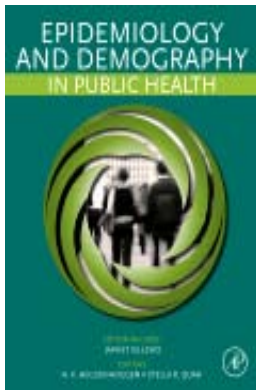
BMJ News

Dr Sean Tunis, the founding director of the Baltimore based Center for Medical Technology Policy, told the briefing: "This is a structural problem, a systemic problem. It won't be solved by doing more of the same thing. Gaps in evidence reflect insufficient engagement of decision makers—patients, clinicians, and payers—in selecting research questions and designing studies."

NEW PUBLICATIONS

- Attenborough FT. [Severe acute respiratory syndrome \(SARS\) and the rhetorical construction of “bad” scientific work](#). Public Understanding of Science. 2010 Aug; [Epub ahead of print].
- Thompson M, Heneghan C. [Antivirals for pandemic influenza: a triumph of policy over evidence?](#) Trends Pharmacol Sci. 2010 Jun; [Epub ahead of print]
- Walmsley H. [Biobanking, public consultation, and the discursive logics of deliberation: Five lessons from British Columbia](#). Public Understanding of Science. 2010; 19(4): 452–468.
- Bickerstaff K, Lorenzoni I, Jones M, Pidgeon N. [Locating Scientific Citizenship: The Institutional Contexts and Cultures of Public Engagement](#). Science, Technology, & Human Values. 2010; 35(4): 474-500.
- Hubner NO, Hubner C, Wodny M, Kampf G, Kramer A. [Effectiveness of alcohol-based hand disinfectants in a public administration: Impact on health and work performance related to acute respiratory symptoms and diarrhea](#). BMC Infectious Diseases. 2010; 10: 250.
- Lau JTF, Griffiths S, Choi KC, Tsui HY. [Avoidance behaviors and negative psychological responses in the general population in the initial stage of the H1N1 pandemic in Hong Kong](#). BMC Infectious Diseases. 2010; 10: 139.
- Park JH, Cheong HK, Son DY, Kim SU, Ha CM. [Perceptions and behaviors related to hand hygiene for the prevention of H1N1 influenza transmission among Korean university students during the peak pandemic period](#). BMC Infectious Diseases. 2010 July; 10: 222.
- Halder N, Kelso JK, Milne GJ. [Developing guidelines for school closure interventions to be used during a future influenza pandemic](#). BMC Infectious Diseases. 2010 July; 10: 221.
- Lajous M, Danon L, López-Ridaura R, Astley CM, Miller JC, Dowell SF, et al. [Mobile Messaging as Surveillance Tool during Pandemic \(H1N1\) 2009, Mexico](#). Emerging Infectious Diseases. 2010 Aug; 16(9).
- Lippert-Rasmussen K and Lauridsen S. [Justice and the allocation of healthcare resources: should indirect, non-health effects count?](#) Med Health Care and Philos. 2010; 13: 237–246.
- Yun K, Lurie N, Hyde PS. [Moving Mental Health into the Disaster-Preparedness Spotlight](#). New England Journal of Medicine. 2010 Aug; 10(1056).
- Bennett B and Carney T. [Law, ethics and pandemic preparedness: the importance of cross-jurisdictional and cross-cultural perspectives](#). Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health. 2010; 34(2): 106-12.
- Pahlman I, Tohmo H, Gylling H. [Pandemic influenza: human rights, ethics and duty to treat](#). Acta Anaesthesiol Scand. 2010; 54: 9-15.

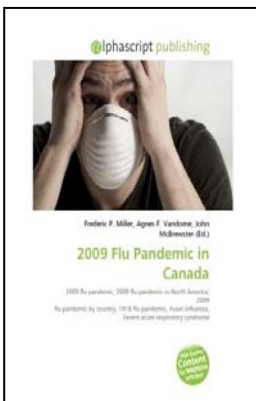
BOOKS



EPIDEMIOLOGY AND DEMOGRAPHY IN PUBLIC HEALTH

Japhet Killewo, Kristian Heggenhougen, Stella R. Quah

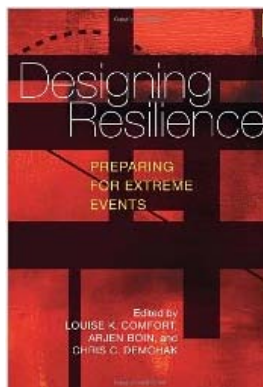
Epidemiology and Demography provides practical guidance on planning and implementing surveillance and investigation of disease and disease outbreaks. Exploring contributing factors to the dynamics of disease transmission and the identification of population risks, it also includes a discussion of ethics in epidemiology and demography including important issues of privacy vs. public safety. With a chapter on H1N1 and Bird flu, this book will be important for students and professionals in public health and epidemiology.



2009 FLU PANDEMIC IN CANADA

Frederic P. Miller, Agnes F. Vandome, John McBrewster

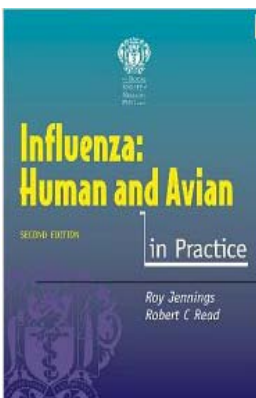
The 2009 flu pandemic in Canada is part of an epidemic in 2009 of a new strain of influenza A virus subtype H1N1 causing what has been commonly called swine flu. In Canada, roughly 10% of the populace (or 3.5 million) has been infected with the virus, with 410 confirmed deaths (as of December 30, 2009); non-fatal individual cases are for the most part no longer being recorded. About 40% of Canadians have been immunized against H1N1 since a national vaccination campaign began in October, with Canada among the countries in the world leading in the percentage of the population that has been vaccinated.



DESIGNING RESILIENCE: PREPARING FOR EXTREME EVENTS

Louise K. Comfort, Arjen Boin, Chris C. Demchak

In the wake of severe climatic events and terrorist acts, and the emergence of dangerous technologies, communities, nations, and global organizations have diligently sought to create strategies to prepare for such events. Designing Resilience presents case studies of extreme events and analyzes the ability of affected individuals, institutions, governments, and technological systems to cope with disaster. Individual case studies, including Hurricane Katrina in the United States, the London bombings, and French preparedness for the Avian flu, demonstrate effective and ineffective strategies.



INFLUENZA: HUMAN AND AVIAN

Roy Jennings and Robert C. Read

In the modern era where rapid and relatively easy global travel is commonplace, the spread of infectious diseases, particularly influenza, represents a very real and almost annual threat to communities worldwide. Current extensive and global interest in influenza lies in the increasingly common reports of the transmission of a number of avian influenza virus strains to humans. Due to the high morbidity and mortality rates observed in humans infected by these strains, influenza is currently under the spotlight. With its accessible approach, broken down into easy to read chapters, this book tells the medical practitioner everything they need to know about influenza and the implications of avian flu.

FEATURE: Abide With Me: A Story of Two Pandemics

CanPREP's research-based play 'Abide With Me: A Story of Two Pandemics' was presented at the Brantford General Hospital on July 23rd and 24th. Written by CanPREP team-member Kate Rossiter, and Laurier Brantford Colleague Rebecca Godderis, the play incorporated archival research, with CanPREP project research largely stemming from public engagement through Town Hall Forums, focus groups, and national surveys.

The story is set in Brantford, Ontario and portrays its experience with the 1918 flu pandemic. The goal of the research-based play is to use theatre and performance as a means to transfer knowledge, and engage audiences in the process of ethical deliberation in pandemic planning and response.

"Both SARS and H1N1 illuminated some of the tough decisions health-care providers have to make during infectious disease outbreaks," says Rossiter. "We want our audience to contemplate these issues outside the chaos and confusion caused by pandemics, and theatre provides an important way for research like this to reach the wider community."

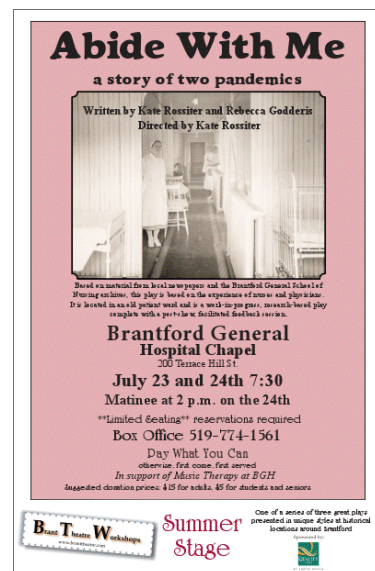
Abide With Me tells the story of one family over the course two pandemics. The play begins as grandma Helen Hargrove awakens to find herself in a modern hospital after a bad fall. As Helen learns that she is in the hospital during the onset of a new pandemic, she revisits her childhood memories of growing up in Brantford during the Spanish Flu outbreak of 1918.

"Brantford's experience of the 1918 flu gave us a great deal of insight into what happens to a community during a severe pandemic," says Godderis, the project's historian.

The two playwrights were funded and supported by the Canadian Program of Research on Ethics in a Pandemic (CanPREP). Historical material for the play was gathered from a variety of local sources including the Brant Museum and Archives, the Brantford General Hospital and Nursing School Archives, and local newspapers. To provide a sense of first-hand contextual detail, participant interviews were also conducted with local community members who shared their memories and stories of the event.

Supported by local theatre group, Brant Theatre Workshops, and with an ensemble cast that features community members, Laurier Brantford students, and CanPREP researcher Laena Maunula, this research-based play runs about 45 minutes long, and was followed by a feedback session facilitated by the play's creators.

For more information on this research-based play, feel free to contact Kate Rossiter at krossiter@wlu.ca.



UPCOMING EVENTS AND CONFERENCES

- **Medical Sociology Group Annual Conference 2010** at Durham University, UK, September 1-3, 2010. [<http://www.britsoc.co.uk/events/medsoc.htm>]

CanPREP team member Laena Maunula will be presenting at this year's conference.

- **Ethics at the Business-Health Care Interface Conference** in Toronto, ON, September 17-19, 2010. [<http://www.researchimpact.ca/resources/events/CBERNSep2010.html>]

- **International Data Sharing Conference** in Oxford, UK, September 20-22, 2010. [<http://helex.medsci.ox.ac.uk/data-sharing-international-conference-1>]

The purpose of this conference is to bring together leaders in the field to discuss the issues raised by data sharing in genomics as well as bringing experts from other domains to add a new dimension to these debates.

- **American Society For Bioethics and Humanities Annual Meeting** in San Diego, CA, October 21-24, 2010. [<http://www.asbh.org/meetings/annual/index.html>]

CanPREP will be presenting at two of the sessions this year. Stay tuned to further newsletter editions for more information.

- **Second Biennial Bilingual Conference of the Canadian Society for the Sociology of Health** in Ottawa, ON, October 28-30, 2010. [<http://www.researchimpact.ca/resources/events/CBERNSep2010.html>]

- **9th Canadian Immunization Conference, Immunization: A Global Challenge for the 21st Century** in Québec City, QC, December 5-8, 2010. [<http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/cnic-ccni/2010/index-eng.php>]

Every two years, the Conference brings together researchers and scientists; physicians; nurses; pharmacists; vaccine experts; health promoters; and health policy makers to expand knowledge on immunization and learn about the latest developments in immunization research, innovation and practice.

FEEDBACK

Questions or comments? Interested in submitting something to the Digest? Looking to highlight your organization/institution's current pandemic influenza ethics work? [Contact us at canprep@gmail.com](mailto:canprep@gmail.com)