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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.ca](mailto:canprep@gmail.ca). Previous editions are available at the [CanPREP archives](#).

## CanPREP NEWS AND UPDATES

### Saint John, New Brunswick Town Hall Forum

Our most recent Town Hall Forum was held in Saint John, NB on May 29, 2009. The final Saint John Town Hall Summary Report can now be found on our homepage at [www.canprep.ca](http://www.canprep.ca). The final report includes the agenda for the day, summary of breakout group discussions, results of the pre- and post-surveys, town hall evaluations and copies of the scenarios used in each breakout group.

Comprehensive data analysis from the Town Halls is now underway. We will be exploring themes across the three Town Halls within each area of focus (i.e. duty to care, priority setting, restrictive measures, and global governance) as well as common themes that span across all four focus areas. We will be comparing the Town Hall data with the results of our National Telephone Survey, and will then be releasing a report sharing our findings.

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### What's new @ [www.CanPREP.ca](http://www.CanPREP.ca)?

**Research Library** → Summaries of the codes of ethics of the Canadian Nursing Association and the Canadian Medical Association have now been added. As well, a summary of the Canadian Influenza Pandemic Plan can be found broken down into each of the libraries' specific categories – Duty to Care, Priority Setting, Social Distancing and Global Governance.

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## White Paper Preparations

The CanPREP team is in the midst of putting together 10-page policy papers to be released in the fall. Papers will be in the H1N1 areas of priority setting, duty to care, restrictive measures, risk communication, trust, vaccine, research ethics and global governance. The content of each paper will include literature review, CanPREP data from Town Halls, surveys, etc, 'real-world' activity, and policy recommendations. Each paper will also include a component linked to vulnerable populations. Along with each area's 10-page white paper, a condensed 2-3-page policy brief and a 1-page executive summary will be released with the help CanPREP collaborators at the Ministry of Ontario.

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## Pandemic Pulse Survey



On May 11, 2009, the McLaughlin-Rotman Centre for Global Health launched 'Pandemic Pulse,' an initiative that taps the global voice of the public on pandemics. At that time, 4,694 H1N1 cases had been confirmed. This number has now exceed 100,000. As the virus continues to spread, and with the prospect of drug resistance and virus mutation looming, it is now more important than ever to foster quality improvement, transparency, and accountability. By completing the [Pandemic Pulse Survey](http://www.pandemicpulse.org), you can help influence the way the media and the government are handling this pandemic. Visit <http://www.pandemicpulse.org> to have your say!

# 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](#).

## [Swine Flu Count - Worldwide statistics of the H1N1 Influenza A Pandemic](#)

Flu Count

Worldwide H1N1 statistics, including death rates per infection – updated every 4 minutes.

## [Canada has world's highest rate of confirmed cases of A/H1N1, with Aboriginal people hardest hit](#)

BMJ News

A Canadian researcher has called on Canada's federal and provincial governments to be more forthright about the evidence that, per person, Canada is the country in the world hit hardest by the A/H1N1 flu virus. Moreover within Canada, he says, Aboriginal people are being hit much harder by the pandemic than the general population.

## [Swine flu fears spur Canada to stock up on ventilators](#)

The Globe and Mail

Dr. Ross Upshur, director of the Joint Centre for Bioethics, said it was always assumed that ventilators would go to younger people who have not lived full lives, rather than to older people, if tough choices had to be made. But because this flu disproportionately hits younger people, it has become a choice of giving them to one young person or another young person.

## [When it comes to pandemics, no one can be left out](#)

Wellesley Institute

Pandemic planning, and emergency responses when a pandemic hits, must be viewed through an equity lens. This policy paper raises critical questions and poses some key answers.

## [H1N1 influenza vaccine: global access for a global problem](#)

CMAJ - Editorial

Equitable access to a vaccine against a pandemic influenza virus is an ethical issue involving justice for all. It is also a prerequisite for the success of any pandemic strategy to safeguard global health. As the novel H1N1 A influenza outbreak has revealed, developing a vaccine to respond to an emerging pandemic strain is a difficult task.

## [H1N1 preparations : CTV News Channel: Dr. Donald Low , infectious diseases expert on flu preparations \(video link\)](#)

CTV News

Dr. Low explains what Ottawa is doing to prepare flu guidelines and what rules doctors must abide by in the event of a pandemic.

## [Unready for the next wave](#)

The Globe and Mail

Is Canada ready for a second wave of H1N1 (swine flu) that may hit in the fall? Britain says it may have 100,000 new cases a day by late August, based on the current doubling each week of the number of people falling ill. If Canada is hit proportionately, that would be roughly 50,000 cases a day.

## NEW PUBLICATIONS (via .PDF links)

Chowell G, Bertozzi SM, Colchero MA. [Severe Respiratory Disease Concurrent with the Circulation of H1N1 Influenza](#). The New England Journal of Medicine. 2009 Jun 29;361.

Zimmer SM, Burke DS. [Historical Perspective – Emergence of Influenza A \(H1N1\) Viruses](#). The New England Journal of Medicine. 2009 Jun 29;361:279-85.

Holm S. [Should Persons Detained During Public Health Crises Receive Compensation?](#) Bioethical Inquiry. 2009;6:197-205.

Rubin GJ, Amlôt R, Page L, Wessely S. [Public perceptions, anxiety, and behaviour change in relation to the swine flu outbreak: cross sectional telephone survey](#). BMJ. 2009;339:b2651.

Viens AM, Bensimon CM, Upshur REG. [Your Liberty or Your Life: Reciprocity in the Use of Restrictive Measures in Contexts of Contagion](#). Bioethical Inquiry. 2009;6:207-17.

Kelso JK, Milne GJ, Kelly H. [Simulation suggests that rapid activation of social distancing can arrest epidemic development due to a novel strain of influenza](#). BMC Public Health. 2009;9(117).

Walmsley H. [Biobanking, public consultation, and the discursive logics of deliberation: Five lessons from British Columbia](#). Public Understand. 2009;1:1-17.

Opstelten W, van Steenberghe JE, van Essen GA, van der Sande MAB. [Threat of an influenza pandemic: family physicians in the front line](#). BMC Family Practice. 2009 Feb;10(11).

Radonovich LJ, Magalian PD, Hollingsworth MK, Baracco G. [Stockpiling supplies for the next influenza pandemic \[online report\]](#). Emerg Infect Dis. 2009 Jun. [Epub ahead of print].

Pareek M, Clark T, Dillon H, Kumar R, Stephenson I. [Willingness of healthcare workers to accept voluntary stockpiled H5N1 vaccine in advance of pandemic activity](#). Vaccine. 2009 Feb;27(8):1242-7.

Selgelid MJ. [Pandethics](#). Public Health. 2009 Mar;123(3):255-9.

Gostin LO. [Influenza A\(H1N1\) and Pandemic Preparedness Under the Rule of International Law](#). JAMA. 2009;301(22):2376-2378.

Novel Swine-Origin Influenza A (H1N1) Virus Investigation Team. [Emergence of a Novel Swine Origin Influenza A \(H1N1\) Virus in Humans](#). The New England Journal of Medicine. 2009 Jun;360(25):2605-2615.

Morens DM, Taubenberger JK, Fauci AS. [The Persistent Legacy of the 1918 Influenza Virus](#). The New England Journal of Medicine. 2009 Jul;361(3):225-29.

## BOOKS



### *"The Patient as Victim and Vector Ethics and Infectious Disease"*

Margaret P. Battin, Charles B. Smith, Leslie P. Francis, Jay A. Jacobson

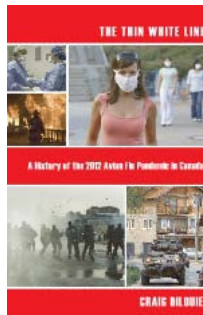
*The Patient as Victim and Vector* explores how traditional and new issues in clinical medicine, research, public health, and health policy might look different in infectious disease were treated as central. The authors argue that both practice and policy must recognize that a patient with a communicable infectious disease is not only a victim of that disease, but also a potential vector—someone who may transmit an illness that will sicken or kill others.



### *"Vaccine: The Controversial Story Of Medicine's Greatest Lifesaver "*

Arthur Allen

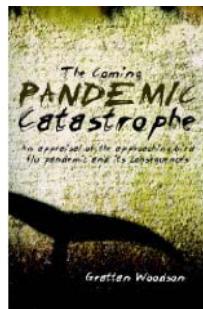
*Vaccine* focuses on the role of military and medical authority in the introduction of vaccines and looks at why some parents have resisted this authority. Political and social intrigue have often accompanied vaccination—from the divisive introduction of smallpox inoculation in colonial Boston to the 9,000 lawsuits recently filed by parents convinced that vaccines caused their children's autism. With narrative grace and investigative journalism, Arthur Allen reveals a history illuminated by hope and shrouded by controversy, and he sheds new light on changing notions of health, risk, and the common good.



### *"The Thin White Line"*

Craig DiLouie

*The Thin White Line* was written before the swine flu pandemic to imagine what a severe influenza pandemic would look like in a modern country such as Canada. Presented as if it were a non-fiction history book describing a pandemic that has already happened, THE THIN WHITE LINE provides a thoughtful journey through a fictional severe pandemic.



### *"Flu: A Social History of Influenza"*

Tom Quinn

This fascinating book explores the havoc caused by the world's most deadly virus - and the destruction left behind in its wake.

## FEATURE

# CanPREP at the Canadian Pandemic Preparedness Meeting

### Canadian Pandemic Preparedness Meeting: H1N1 Outbreak Research Response

Canadian influenza researchers came together on July 8, 2009 in Toronto, Canada to discuss current research being carried out in response to the expanding outbreak of the H1N1 virus. The morning plenary session included presentations by many keynote researchers including Frank Plummer, Public Health Agency of Canada, John Pasick, Canadian Food Inspection Agency and University of Toronto's own Dr. Ross Upshur, Joint Centre for Bioethics.



The afternoon consisted of concurrent workshops covering a wide variety of current H1N1 research. These topics included research involved in:

- Epidemiology
- Aboriginal Populations
- Research Ethics and Ethical Issues
- Vaccines
- Biology of the Virus, Immune Response and Antivirals
- Clinical Pathogenesis & Infection Prevention
- Mathematical modeling

Each workshop consisted of 4-5 ten minute 'snapshot' presentations by researchers from all over the country. Each presentation aimed at answering the **three key questions of the day**:

- **What is known?**
- **What are the lessons learned in the past?**
- **What are the most important research questions that Canadian researchers can address?**

These presentations covered the first sixty minutes of each workshop, while the remainder of the time was devoted to identifying gaps that needed to be addressed and describing potential research opportunities for collaboration. This open discussion focused specifically on potential synergies, new opportunities and building collaborations.

**CanPREP** was presented at the meeting during both the morning plenary session and afternoon workshops. Significant interest in the CanPREP project was noticed as many fellow Canadian researchers were eager to collaborate with the ethics-based project. These include Dr. James Dickinson, Department of Family Medicine University of Calgary and Michelle Driedger, Department of Community Health Sciences University of Manitoba.

The day-long meeting was closed by Dr. Bhagirath Singh, Scientific Director of CIHR Institute of Infection and Immunity. Dr. Singh announced new CIHR H1N1 research funding opportunities aimed at generating collaboration, networking and further contributions to pandemic response.

The meeting was organized by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. A full program of the day, along with participant information, can be found at <http://www.ppsri-irscip.ca/>

## UPCOMING EVENTS AND CONFERENCES

- **International Swine Flu Conference** in Washington, DC, August 19-20, 2009. [<http://www.new-fields.com/ISFC/>]
- **“BirdFlu2009: Avian Influenza and Human Health”** in Oxford, UK, September 9-10, 2009. [<http://www.libpubmedia.co.uk/Conferences/BirdFlu2009/Home.htm>]
- **American Society for Bioethics and Humanities 11th Annual Meeting** in Washington, DC, October 15-18, 2009. [<http://www.asbh.org/meetings/annual/>]
- **137th American Public Health Association: Annual Meeting & Exposition** in Philadelphia, PA, November 7-11, 2009. [<http://www.apha.org/meetings/>]

## FEEDBACK

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