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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. Previous editions are available at the [CanPREP archives](#).

CanPREP NEWS AND UPDATES

Saint John, New Brunswick Town Hall Forum

The latest Pandemic Influenza Town Hall Forum was held on May 29, 2009 in Saint John, New Brunswick. This was the third Town Hall Forum the CanPREP project has organized, where it once again gathered local citizens and received public perspectives on ethical challenges that may arise during a pandemic. These Town Halls are vital to the CanPREP project as they involve public engagement in the pandemic planning process. The day began with presentations by Timothy Christie, the Director of Ethics Services for the Atlantic Health Sciences Corporation in Saint John, and Dr. Ross Upshur, Director of the University of Toronto's Joint Centre for Bioethics. Participants were then divided into breakout groups and explored, through case studies, ethical issues surrounding healthcare workers' duty to care, priority setting, restrictive measures and global governance.



The forum was once again successful and informative, and participants shared that they gained greater knowledge on issues pertaining to pandemic ethics by the end of the day.

Preparation of the final full report from the town hall is currently underway which will also include data collected from a pre- and post-survey given to participants on the day of the Town Hall.

Winnipeg, Manitoba Town Hall Forum

Prior to the Saint John, NB Town Hall Forum, a town hall was held in Winnipeg, MB on February 27, 2009. The final Winnipeg Town Hall Summary Report can now be found on our homepage at 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.

What's new @ www.CanPREP.ca?

The CanPREP website is continuously being updated on a daily basis. This website has been designed to be a communication hub connecting ethicists, policy makers, health care workers and members of the public to each other and to the resources they need.

New Editions:

Ethics FAQs → providing an introduction to pandemics and ethics, along with definitions of key words

Research Library → a database of empirical and theoretical studies, relevant policy documents, and legal analyses of CanPREP's ethical foci: duty to care, priority setting, social distancing, global governance and research ethics

Espace éthique – CanPREP Collaborator

The Espace éthique / AP-HP and Ethics department of University Paris 11 organize a number of projects related to influenza pandemic ethical issues since 2006. They issue a number of articles, conference communications, a newsletter, and works of a hospital network.



They recently circulated a document [in French] on practical considerations for hospitals today regarding H1N1. A network of hospital PanFlu coordinators aim at calling stakeholders' attention to a number of practical questions that should not be missed. It addresses some issues in the following topics: restrictions of liberties, rights and duties of healthcare professionals, anticipating difficult decisions. All comments are welcome. A link to this document can be found [here](#).

[Click Here to visit Espace éthique!](#)

PANDEMIC NEWS

[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](#).

[Tracking the Progress of H1N1 Swine Flu](#)

Flu Tracker

A world map showing confirmed swine flu cases – updated daily.

[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.

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

Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC)

A detailed daily update of swine flu cases in Canada.

[Preparing for the Worst](#)

The Economist

An influenza outbreak in 1918 began in a mild way, but returned in a lethal form months later and killed millions. Margaret Chan, the WHO's boss, cautioned: "it may come back...the world should prepare for it."

[Pandemic plans need to recognize not everyone is affected equally](#)

Wellesley Institute – Media Advisory

As the world braces for a possible swine flu pandemic, the need for proper pandemic planning and effective emergency responses is drawn into sharp focus.

[Researchers Looking for Answers](#)

The Telegraph Journal

Dr. Ross Upshur, Director of the University of Toronto Joint Centre for Bioethics, and CanPREP's lead researcher, discusses the current research project which focuses on ethical issues during a pandemic influenza.

[Swine Flu of 1976: Lessons from the Past. An interview with Dr. Harvey Fineberg](#)

Bull World Health Organization - June, 2009

In 1976, a late winter outbreak of swine flu at a military base in the USA led to fears of a devastating pandemic. President Gerald Ford announced a plan to vaccinate everyone in the country. By the end of the year, 40 million out of some 200 million Americans were vaccinated for the new strain, but no pandemic appeared and public health credibility suffered. Dr Harvey Fineberg tells the Bulletin why his 1978 study of that public health response is still relevant today.

[Swine flu reality check: Interview with Dr. Michael Gardam, Ontario Agency for Health Protection \(video link\)](#)

CBC News - June, 2009

"I think we have to be honest and say that there are a fair percentage of people who are getting quite sick with

this who either have no underlying condition, or if they do have one it's a pretty minor one," says Dr. Gardam.

[Swine Flu Shots for Canadians ready 'in Fall'](#)

The Globe and Mail – June 2009

"We are working towards actually having a vaccine ready sometime in the fall and well before the worst of a potential winter flu season," David Butler-Jones told reporters yesterday. "Canada is well-prepared for these events, thanks to years of advanced planning."

NEW PUBLICATIONS (via .PDF links)

[Faust HS, Bensimon CM, Upshur R. *The Role of Faith-Based Organizations in the Ethical Aspects of Pandemic Flu Planning – Lessons Learned from the Toronto SARS Experience*. Public Health Ethics, 2009;2\(1\):105-12.](#)

[Seale H, Leask J, Po K, MacIntyre CR. "Will they just pack up and leave?" – attitudes and intended behaviour of hospital health care workers during an influenza pandemic. BMC Health Services Research, 2009 Feb 13;9\(30\).](#)

[Damery S, Wilson S, Draper H, Gratus C, Greenfield S, Ives J, Parry J, Petts J, Sorell T. Will the NHS continue to function in an influenza pandemic? A survey of healthcare workers in the West Midlands, UK. BMC Public Health, 2009 May 14;9\(142\).](#)

[Putthasri W, Lertiendumrong J, Chompook P, Tangcharoensathien V, Coker R. Capacity of Thailand to Contain an Emerging Influenza Pandemic. Emerging Infectious Diseases, 2009 Mar;15\(3\):423-32.](#)

[Nishiura H, Wilson N, Baker MG. Quarantine for pandemic influenza control at the borders of small island nations. BMC Infectious Diseases, 2009 Mar 11;9\(27\).](#)

[Fedson DS. Meeting the Challenge of Influenza Pandemic Preparedness in Developing Countries. Emerging Infectious Diseases, 2009 Mar;15\(3\):365-71.](#)

[Tabery J, Mackett CW. Ethics of Triage in the Event of an Influenza Pandemic. Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness, 2008 Feb 6;2\(2\):114-18.](#)

[Murphy T, Whitty N. Is Human Rights Prepared? Risk, Rights and Public Health Emergencies. Medical Law Review, 2009 May 8:1-26.](#)

[Blickstead JR, Shapcott M. When it comes to Pandemics, no one can be left out. The Wellesley Institute, 2009 Apr 28.](#)

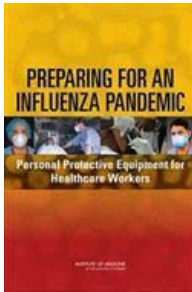
[Ives J, Greenfield S, Parry JM, Draper H, Gratus C, Petts JI, Sorell T, Wilson S. Healthcare workers' attitudes to working during pandemic influenza: a qualitative study. BMC Public Health, 2009 Feb 12;9\(56\).](#)

[Draper H, Wilson S, Ives J, Gratus C, Greenfield S, Parry J, Petts J, Sorell T. Healthcare workers' attitudes towards working during pandemic influenza: A multi method study. BMC Public Health, 2008 June 2;8\(192\).](#)

[Appleyard T. Bridging the Preparedness Divide: A Framework for Health Equity in Ontario's Emergency Management Programs. The Wellesley Institute, 2009 Apr 28.](#)

[Bermejo-Martin JF, Tenorio-Abreu A, Vega T, Eiros JM, Castrodeza, Ortiz de Lejarazu R. Pre-pandemic Influenza Vaccines. The Lancet Infectious Diseases, 2009;9\(4\):206-207.](#)

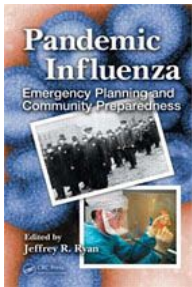
BOOKS



"Preparing For An Influenza Pandemic: Personal Protection Equipment for Healthcare Workers"

Lewis R. Goldfrank

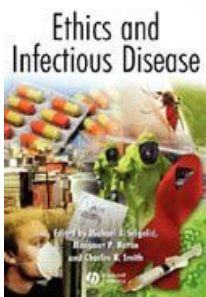
Preparing for an Influenza Pandemic is designed to help healthcare workers understand the risks involved with Influenza by covering the various aspects of the personal protective equipment (PPE) they will use. Topics covered include: the design and engineering of effective PPE, the individual and institutional issues surrounding the use of PPE, the certification and regulation of PPE, and much more.



"Pandemic Influenza: Emergency Planning and Community Preparedness"

Jeffrey R. Ryan

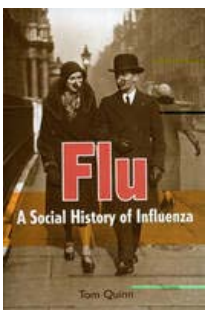
Public health and emergency preparedness professionals, as well as policy makers at all levels will find a wealth of information to help them create a plan and allocate the proper resources to mitigate the devastation of a pandemic influenza.



"Ethics and Infectious Disease"

Michael Selgelid, Margaret Battin, Charles B. Smith

This seminal collection on the ethical issues associated with infectious disease is the first book to correct bioethics' glaring neglect of this subject. Timely in view of public concern about SARS, AIDS, avian flu, bioterrorism and antibiotic resistance. Brings together new and classic papers by prominent figures. Tackles the ethical issues associated with issues such as quarantine, vaccination policy, pandemic planning, biodefense, wildlife disease and health care in developing countries.



"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 – Anishinabek Nation

Bracing For Attack – H1N1 Virus Presents Latest Threat

The Anishinabek Nation, or as it may be known to most Ontarians, The Union Of Ontario Indians, is bracing for yet another threat to the well-being of its citizens. With 41 member First Nations communities stretching from Sarnia to Lake Nipigon and east to Pikwakanagan, the threat posed by the H1N1 virus is being taken very seriously by the Nation's leadership. The overall health and well-being of the approximate combined on-reserve population of 20,000 citizens, has been a major ongoing source of concern for the Anishinabek Nation's leadership since its formal inception in 1949.

As demonstrated by the recent deadly outbreak of the H1N1 influenza virus in Manitoba, most First Nation communities in Canada are ill-equipped to deal with any community-wide emergency. Overcrowded housing, lack of basic services such as running water, limited onsite health services, or emergency services are sadly the everyday realities in many First Nation communities. These realities make First Nations prime targets for any virus.



How do Anishinabek Nation communities stack up when compared to the national snapshot of First Nations? While many of Anishinabek Nation communities have their own schools, health centers, water and sewer systems, adequate housing, onsite health and emergency services, they are still faced with many challenges.

History provided a great insight into 'why' and 'what' survived of many advanced civilizations that came before us. The Egyptian Pyramids and Mayan ruins left us stark reminders of 'what' survived. More importantly it answered the 'why' question. Why did these structures survive when all other traces of their rich societies vanished?

We only had to look to the approach taken by their respective leaderships to find the critical information.

All planning and necessary resources went into ensuring that the foundations of these icons were solid and built to last. As First Nations we have long advocated that our communities are the foundation of our traditional and holistic society. A common theme often heard that has now grown to a credo, is that, "If it doesn't happen in our communities, it doesn't happen!"

However, history has once again demonstrated quite clearly that the various federal and provincial government agencies responsible for funding the development of local capacity, services and physical infrastructure have taken a different approach, with mixed results, at best.

Limited funding was provided to each First Nations community within the First Nations and Inuit Health (FNIH) branch, Ontario Region for development and testing of individual Community Pandemic Plans. A Community Pandemic Planner was also recently hired on a contract basis by the Anishinabek Nation, with funding provided by FNIH, to assist Ontario First Nations prepare and test their Pandemic Plans. Emergency medical supplies purchased by FNIH were also stockpiled in each First Nation community.

While these steps were certainly welcomed, there were still many gaps identified in the critical

infrastructure needed to stave off any community emergency. 'Wish Lists' for each community submitted to other government agencies, such as Indian and northern Affairs (INAC) remained in limbo. Such items as back-up portable generators to power community centers, community kitchens and band offices were identified as crucial onsite requirements. Communication devices such as satellite telephones, and portable two-way radios to ensure reliable communication with the outside world were also among the many items listed.

The Anishinabek Nation continues to work with both federal and government agencies on such bodies as the Pandemic Technical working Group, along with other First Nation partners such as the Chiefs of Ontario (COO), Treaty organizations such as Nishnabwe Aski Nation (NAN), Treaty 3, the Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians (AIAI) and the Independents. First Nations and Inuit Health, Ontario Region and Indian and Northern Affairs (INAC) are federal representatives on the committee. The province's Ministry of Health and Long Term Care (MOHLTC) is the Ontario provincial partner involved. The MOHLTC has added a First Nations annex to their provincial Pandemic plan.

The preliminary steps have been taken to empower the Anishinabek Nation to ensure the long term survival of its communities and citizens. However much more work is required before we can rest easy. The Pyramids in our lives must be put upright to ensure continued progress.

Many thanks to Tony Jocko, Anishinabek Federal Policy Analyst, for help in the collaboration of this article.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND CONFERENCES

- **20th Annual Canadian Bioethics Society Conference: "Just Evidence?"** in Hamilton, ON, June 11-14, 2009. [<http://fhs.mcmaster.ca/bioethicsconference/>]

Keynote Speaker: Maude Barlow, National Chair of the Council of Canadians, and Senior Advisor on Water to the President of the United Nations General Assembly

- **137th American Public Health Association: Annual Meeting & Exposition** in Philadelphia, PA, November 7-11, 2009. [<http://www.apha.org/meetings/>]

- **"The Pandemic Influenza: Where are we now?"** in Toronto, ON, June 24, 2009. [<http://www.oha.com/>]

Speakers include: Dr. Donald Low, Medical Director, Public Health Laboratories, OAHPP and Dr. Ross Upshur, Director, Joint Centre for Bioethics, University of Toronto.

- **American Society for Bioethics and Humanities 11th Annual Meeting** in Washington, DC, October 15-18, 2009. [<http://www.asbh.org/meetings/annual/>]

FEEDBACK

Questions or comments? [Contact us at canprep@gmail.com](mailto:canprep@gmail.com)