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Joint Centre for Bioethics



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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

The recent spread of influenza (H1N1) has indicated the need for rapid preparedness. This month, we are interested in **hearing from you** on:

1. What are you doing right now in response to the pandemic?
2. What do you see as current ethical issues/challenges facing you or your organization right now?
3. Are there any specific needs CanPREP can support you or your organization with?
4. Are there any collaborative initiatives that we can undertake?

Please feel free to send along comments to us and we will get back to you as soon as we can. You can email us at canprep@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you!

Please keep up to date with the **CanPREP website** (www.canprep.ca). We will have an Ethics FAQ available for download shortly, and we will also be building policy/research libraries for documents relevant to ethical issues in pandemic planning.

Report from **Stakeholder Forum** on January 13, 2009 is currently being prepared.

Planning for **Saint John Townhall** (May 29th, 2009) – aimed to engage the lay citizen on the ethical challenges raised by pandemic influenza. For more information, please contact pandemic.townhall@gmail.com

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 - May 7, 2009

A world map showing confirmed swine flu cases

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

World Health Organization - May 7, 2009

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

[Canadians crack gene code of flu virus](#)

National Post - May 7, 2009

Cracking the genetic code of the virus moves scientists an important step closer to understanding how swine flu spreads and changes over time, how long it has been in the human population and where it originated. It will also help in the development of a vaccine.

[Flu virus baffles Canadian scientists](#)

The Toronto Star - May 7, 2009

Canadian scientists discovered nothing in the genetic makeup of the H1N1 virus that would explain why symptoms are far more severe in Mexico than in all but one of the 201 confirmed cases here.

[The Invisible Helping Hand of Public Health](#)

The Globe and Mail - May 6, 2009

"Public-health authorities at all levels will continue to monitor the situation and provide guidance long after the H1N1 virus moves off the newspapers' front pages. In fact, they will continue to promote the best science on how to enhance the health of Canadians"

[H1N1 Virus Outbreak: Why it's Important to be Prepared for Pandemics \(video link\)](#)

CTV News - May 6, 2009

Global health expert, Dr. Peter Singer, discusses how residents and public health officials need to strike the careful balance between being prepared - but not panicking - over the flu outbreak.

["Swine Flu and Health Workers" – Dr. Ross Upshur on CBC's The Current \(audio link\)](#)

CBC Radio One - May 4, 2009

When we mere mortals come down with an infection that is not only new but contagious, someone has to look out for us and look after us. You know who they are: the doctors, nurses, frontline health professionals who, at a time of outbreak, put their own lives on hold for ours. They're at it again as we grapple with the flu formerly known as Swine.

[PAHO Urges Equitable Access to Influenza Vaccines](#)

PAHO/WHO - May 3, 2009

Guaranteeing access for developing countries to vaccines, including a possible vaccine for the new A/H1N1 influenza virus, is a major concern of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the regional office for the Americas of the World Health Organization (WHO), a PAHO vaccine expert said during a media briefing today.

NEW PUBLICATIONS (via .PDF links)

[Upshur R, Nelson S. Duty to care: Acknowledging Complexity and Uncertainty. Nursing Inq. 2008 Dec;15\(4\):261-2.](#)

[Kwong JC, Stukel TA, Lim J, McGeer AJ, Upshur RE, Johansen H, Sambell C, Thompson WW, Thiruchelvam D, Marra F, Svenson LW, Manuel DG. The effect of universal influenza immunization on mortality and health care use. PLoS Med. 2008 Oct 28;5\(10\):e211.](#)

[McDougall CW, Upshur RE, Wilson K. Emerging norms for the control of emerging epidemics. Bull World Health Organ. 2008 Aug;86\(8\):643-5.](#)

[Upshur R. The duty to care in a pandemic. Joint Centre for Bioethics Pandemic Ethics Working Group, Am J Bioeth. 2008 Aug;8\(8\):31-3.](#)

[Van Delden JJ, Ashcroft R, Dawson A, Marckmann G, Upshur R, Verweij MF. The ethics of mandatory vaccination against influenza for health care workers. Vaccine. 2008 Oct 16;26\(44\):5562-6. Epub 2008 Aug 21.](#)

[Harvey M. Drama, Talk, and Emotion: Omitted Aspects of Public Participation. Science, Technology & Human Values 2009; 34; 139.](#)

[Reidpath DD, Allotey P. Opening up public health: a strategy of information and communication technology to support population health. Lancet, 2009 Mar 21;373\(9668\):1050-51.](#)

[Dharan N, Gubareva L, Meyer J, Okomo-Adhiambo M, McClinton RC, Marshall SA, St. George K, Epperson S, Brammer L, Klimov AI, Bresee JS, Fry AM. The Oseltamivir-Resistance Working Group. Infections With Oseltamivir-Resistant Influenza A\(H1N1\) Virus in the United States. JAMA. 2009 Mar 11;301\(10\):1034-41.](#)

[Gooskens J, Jonges M, Claas EC, Meijer A, van den Broek PJ, Kroes AM. Morbidity and mortality associated with nosocomial transmission of oseltamivir-resistant influenza A\(H1N1\) virus. JAMA. 2009 Mar 11;301\(10\):1042-6. Epub 2009 Mar 2.](#)

[Persad G, Wertheimer A, Emanuel EJ. Principles for allocation of scarce medical interventions. Lancet. 2009 Jan 31;373\(9661\):423-31.](#)

[Breban R, Drake JM, Stallknecht DE, Rohani P. The role of environmental transmission in recurrent avian influenza epidemics. PLoS Comput Biol. 2009 Apr;5\(4\):e1000346. Epub 2009 Apr 10.](#)

[Blumenshine P, Reingold A, Egerter S, Mockenhaupt R, Braveman P, Marks J. Pandemic influenza planning in the United States from a health disparities perspective. Emerg Infect Dis. 2008 May;14\(5\):709-15.](#)

[Mensua A, Mounier-Jack S, Coker R. Pandemic influenza preparedness in Latin America: analysis of national strategic plans. Health Policy Plan. 2009 May 1. \[Epub ahead of print\]](#)

BOOKS

"Influenza 1918 : disease, death and struggle in Winnipeg" Author: Jones, Esyllt Wynne

"The silent enemy : Canada and the deadly flu of 1918" Author: Pettigrew, Eileen

"Dread: How Fear and Fantasy have Fueled Epidemics from the Black Death to the Avian Flu"
Author: Alcabes, Philip

Contagious : cultures, carriers, and the outbreak narrative Authors: Wald, Priscilla

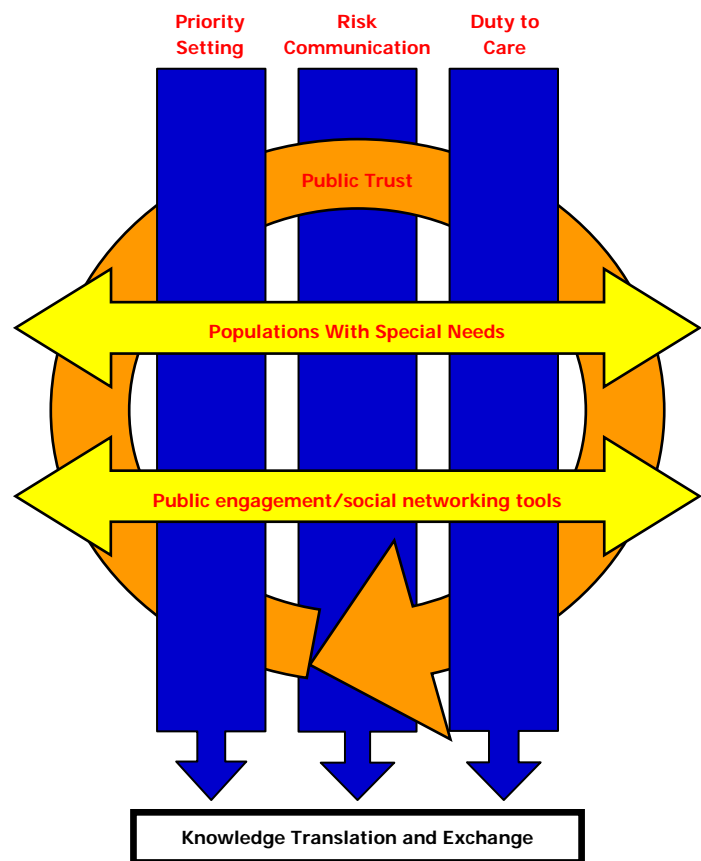
FEATURE – CanPREP Stakeholders

The CanPREP project is a collaborative program of research comprised of three interlinked working groups focused on three key ethical issues: 1) health care provider obligations and institutional support for health care providers; 2) priority setting for scarce resources; and 3) risk communication and knowledge translation. Each of the working groups will bring together investigators, end-users, community partners, and research trainees to conduct interdisciplinary collaborative scholarship with immediate policy relevance. Bisecting these key ethical issues are three cross-cutting themes: public trust, public engagement/social networking tools, and protection of vulnerable and special needs populations.

On January 13th, 2009, CanPREP brought together a diverse range of collaborators and community partners, (representing research end-users, policy makers, program developers, health care providers, regulatory authorities, and health professional colleges) for a research setting exercise. This strategic alliance of researchers and end-users establishes the ideal environment for innovative research activity and proactive knowledge transfer.

Our partnering agencies are drawn from three sectors: (i) health care professionals and regulatory bodies; (ii) policy makers at the international, national, provincial/territorial, and local levels; and (iii) vulnerable and special needs populations and agencies that serve these populations such as community care providers and non-governmental organizations and advocacy groups.

Each of our collaborators has agreed to: (i) participate in the research agenda setting forum (described below); (ii) accommodate a graduate student who will conduct research in their organization; and (iii) participate in the concluding summative forum. Additionally, collaborators will exploit their internal communication channels and external networks in order to facilitate a "push" knowledge translation strategy of the research findings into their organizations.



Our list of collaborators include:

- College of Nurses of Ontario (CNO)
- Federation of Medical Regulatory Authorities of Canada (FMRAC)
- College of Physiotherapists of Ontario
- The World Medical Association (WMA)
- Canadian Medical Association (CMA)
- GTA Rehab Network
- Canadian Physiotherapy Association
- Centre for Independent Living in Toronto
- College of Pharmacy
- Conference Board of Canada
- World Health Organization (WHO)
- Ontario Ministry of Health & Long Term Care
- Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC)
- Emergency Management Ontario
- PHAC Policy Analyst - Division of Aging and Seniors
- Canadian Pensioners Concerned(CPC)
- Community Care Access Centres (CCACs)
- Ontario Long Term Care Association
- Salvation Army
- Connecting Seniors of Canada
- Association of Ontario Health Centres
- Anishinabek Nation
- Ontario Native Women's Association (ONWA)
- Nishnawbe Aski Nation
- Ontario Association of Non-Profit Homes and Services for Seniors

In upcoming issues of the digest, we will be featuring specific stakeholders and their organizations collaborating with CanPREP, and their specific areas of interest in pandemic preparedness.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND CONFERENCES

12th World Congress on Public Health (held in Turkey) <http://www.worldpublichealth2009.org/>

APHA Annual Meeting & Exposition <http://www.apha.org/meetings/>

137th Annual Meeting & Exposition, Philadelphia, PA, November 7-11, 2009

NB Consortium of Bioethics (NBCB) presents Ethical Issues in Healthcare 2009. Keynote Speaker: Dr. Ross Upshur Director, Joint Centre for Bioethics University of Toronto "Trusting and Knowing" Thursday 28 May 2009 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. UNB Saint John

Canadian Bioethics Society Conference — Hamilton, Ontario 20th Canadian Bioethics Society Conference "Just Evidence?" June 11 - 14, 2009

ASBH 11th Annual Meeting, October 15-18, 2009, Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill, Washington, DC

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