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

CanPREP NEWS AND UPDATES

Pandemic Flu and Ethics: A Review of the Role of the Media

The 21st Annual Canadian Bioethics Society Conference will be held in Kelowna, BC from June 9th-12th. This year, CanPREP team member Laena Maunula will be presenting ethical issues surrounding the media and the pandemic. The recent outbreak of H1N1 has thrust pandemic influenza into the media spotlight. Media coverage of pandemic flu is important for disseminating health information and plays a significant role in influencing public beliefs, behaviours and values with respect to particular health issues.



A host of ethical questions have thus been raised: How should information be communicated to the Canadian public during a pandemic? How are ethical issues presented within news media? Understanding how public media frames pandemic influenza is imperative and urgent: the answers to these questions have considerable implications for risk communication and the building and maintenance of public trust in a public health emergency.

Drawing a sample of Canadian print news stories collected in late 2009, this presentation will present a preliminary analysis of the news media coverage of the H1N1 outbreak in terms of underlying values and the ways in which moral dilemmas, such as priority setting for vaccine distribution, are represented in the public media.

For those attending this year's CBS Conference, this session will be on Friday, June 11, from 2 – 3:30pm.

CanPREP accepted 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 21th - 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.

More information will follow in upcoming newsletters!

Engaging Voices of the Public – A Workshop by the Canadian Program of Research on Ethics in a Pandemic (CanPREP)

Along with the CanPREP session mentioned above titled '*Pandemic Flu and Ethics: A Review of the Role of the Media,*' the CanPREP workshop titled '*Engaging Voices of the Public – A Workshop by the Canadian Program of Research on Ethics in a Pandemic (CanPREP),*' will also be presented at this year's Canadian Bioethics Society Conference.

For those attending this year's CBS Conference, this session will be taking place on Thursday, June 10, 2010 from 2 – 3:30pm.

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.

[Only 28% of Toronto residents got H1N1 shot, report finds](#)

The Toronto Star

A report to be presented to the city's Board of Health next Tuesday states that the estimated vaccination rate of Toronto residents was 28.2 per cent. And it confirms what many have long suspected — that the vaccine arrived too late.

[The H1N1 post-mortem: \\$2-billion, 428 deaths – and they still did the right thing](#)

The Globe and Mail

The leaders in public health have reason to be proud of their response to H1N1. But their work is not done until they have done a thorough post-mortem. We need to reflect – publicly and insightfully – on what went wrong and what went right and then tweak the pandemic plan and public health responses more generally.

[The swine flu pandemic that never was](#)

The National Post

Also, in the case of H1N1, it's not as though there were no critics of the WHO, CDC and Health Canada. From the start of this pandemic scare, a little more than a year ago, there were skeptics who warned against precisely the kind of overreaction that occurred.

[Early-warning system for infectious diseases needed, expert says: H1N1 served as wake-up call](#)

Ottawa Citizen

"Part of the problem that I think has been recognized with this pandemic is the major gaps and lack of surveillance that's been done in animals," says Donald Low, who's also medical director of Ontario's public-health laboratories.

[Swine flu pandemic review panel seeks access to confidential documents between WHO and drug companies](#)

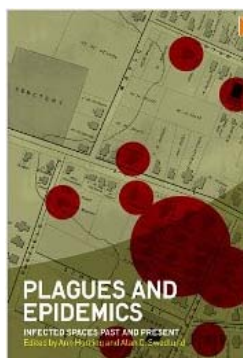
BMJ News

Critics have suggested that WHO and expert advisory committees may have been unduly influenced by the drug industry, especially in upgrading the H1N1 outbreak from phase five to phase six, leading to the declaration of the pandemic on 11 June last year.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

- De Vries R, Stanczyk A, Wall IF, Uhlmann R, Damschroder LJ, Kim SY. [Assessing the quality of democratic deliberation: a case study of public deliberation on the ethics of surrogate consent for research.](#) Soc Sci Med. 2010 Jun;70(12):1896-903. Epub 2010 Mar 16.
- SteelFisher GK, Blendon RJ, Bekheit MM, Lubell K. [The Public's Response to the 2009 H1N1 Influenza Pandemic.](#) NEJM. 2010 May; [Epub ahead of print].
- Dürwald R, Krumbholz A, Baumgarte S, Schlegel M, Vahlenkamp TW, Selbitz H-J, et al. [Swine influenza A vaccines, pandemic \(H1N1\) 2009 virus, and cross-reactivity.](#) Emerg Infect Dis. 2010 Jun; [Epub ahead of print].
- De Serres G, Rouleau I, Hamelin ME, Quach C, Skowronski D, et al. [Contagious period for pandemic \(H1N1\) 2009.](#) Emerg Infect Dis. 2010 May;16(5):783-8.
- Viboud C, Simonsen L. [Does Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Increase the Risk of Illness with the 2009 A/H1N1 Pandemic Virus?](#) PLoS. 2010; 7(4).
- Chien JM, Tan BH, Yang KS, Tan TT, Low CY, et al. [Severe infection with H1N1 requiring intensive care--lessons for preparedness programmes.](#) Ann Acad Med Singapore. 2010 Apr;39(4):328-5.
- Seale H, Heywood AE, McLaws ML, Ward KF, Lowbridge CP, Van D, MacIntyre CR. [Why do I need it? I am not at risk! Public perceptions towards the pandemic \(H1N1\) 2009 vaccine.](#) BMC Infectious Diseases. 2010; 10(99).
- Eastman N, Philips B, Rhodes A. [Triaging for adult critical care in the event of overwhelming need.](#) Intensive Care Med. 2010 Jun;36(6):1076-82. Epub 2010 Mar 27.
- Cook D, Burns K, Finfer S, Kisson N, Bhagwanjee S, et al. [Clinical research ethics for critically ill patients: a pandemic proposal.](#) Crit Care Med. 2010 Apr;38(4 Suppl):e138-42.
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- Caplan AL. [Unlicensed pandemic influenza A H1N1 vaccines.](#) Lancet. 2010 Feb 6;375(9713):444-5.
- Ritvo P, Wilson K, Gibson JL, Guglietti C, Tracy CS, Nie JX, Jadad AR, Upshur REG. [Canadian survey on pandemic flu preparations.](#) BM Public Health. 2010; 10(25).
- Hsieh YH. [Age groups and spread of influenza: implications for vaccination strategy.](#) BMC Infectious Diseases. 2010; 10(106).
- Hemenway D. [Why We Don't Spend Enough on Public Health.](#) N Engl J Med. 2010 May 6;362(18):1657-8.

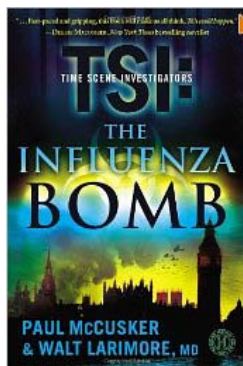
BOOKS



PLAGUES AND EPIDEMICS: INFECTED SPACES PAST AND PRESENT

Ann Herring

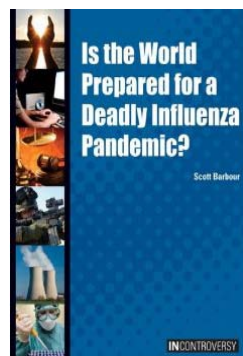
Until recently, plagues were thought to belong in the ancient past. Now there are deep worries about global pandemics. This book presents views from anthropology about this much publicized and complex problem. The authors take us to places where epidemics are erupting, waning, or gone and to other places where they have not yet arrived, but where a frightening story-line is already in place. They explore public health bureaucracies and political arenas where the power lies to make decisions about what is, and is not, an epidemic. They look back into global history to uncover disease trends and look ahead to a future of expanding plagues within the context of climate change. The chapters are written from a range of perspectives, from the science of modeling epidemics to the social science of understanding them.



THE INFLUENZA BOMB: A NOVEL

Paul McCusker and Walt M.D. Larimore

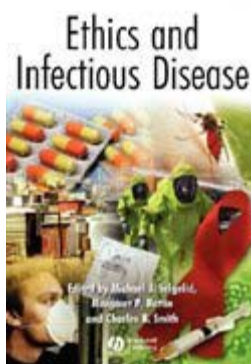
Masses of people are dying from a mysterious flu. While the TSI team searches for a cure, a notorious eco-terrorist group, Return to Earth, uses an influenza bomb to poison the water. It's a race against time—with the outcome impacting the entire world. By the time the team discovers that the terrorists are using the water supply to infect people, the sickness is spreading worldwide and no one has a cure. When Return to Earth makes off with a mysterious device called the influenza bomb with the intent to destroy all of mankind, Dr. Hutchinson must stop the contamination from being spread before it's too late.



IS THE WORLD PREPARED FOR A DEADLY INFLUENZA PANDEMIC?

Scott Barbour

In response to the recent pandemic of the H1N1 influenza virus, public health experts around the world are assessing national and global readiness for a truly deadly influenza pandemic outbreak. Through objective discussion, numerous direct quotes, and full-color illustrations this title examines What Is the History of Influenza Pandemics? Can Predictions of Future Pandemics Help the World Prepare? Is the Global Pandemic Response System Adequate? Can Vaccines Prevent a Pandemic? How Effective Are Social Containment Measures?



ETHICS AND INFECTIONS 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.

FEATURE: CanPREP's Stakeholder Forum II

CanPREP held their second Stakeholder Forum on May 25, 2010 at the Courtyard Marriott in downtown Toronto. With the H1N1 pandemic influenza coming to an end in many Canadian cities, the CanPREP team was hoping to get stakeholders together to share their experiences, both personal and organizational, and disclose any unresolved issues that may have surfaced. Many participants from the first Stakeholder Forum, held on January 13, 2009, were present, along with several new stakeholder groups CanPREP has collaborated with since then. The stakeholders included health care workers, local, provincial, national, and international policy makers, and community representatives.

Along with creating an environment for stakeholders to engage with one another, the second Stakeholder Forum was organized to accomplish five goals:

- Briefly discuss what were initially outlined as research priorities from the last forum
- Discuss what the CanPREP team and stakeholders have been doing since, and what was learned
- Hear the experiences of stakeholders from the last 18 months
- Discuss where our focus might be now: did ethical frameworks make a difference?
- Introduce a dramatic play based on CanPREP research



The morning began with a plenary session, where CanPREP's Principle Investigator Ross Upshur presented a recap from the first Stakeholder Forum and CanPREP's past, current, and ongoing activities. Research findings in the areas of duty to care, restrictive measures, priority setting, and global governance, from the Town Hall Forums, national surveys, and focus groups, were also presented from the project's thorough and lengthy data analysis. Participants were then split into breakout groups for discussion. In Session 1, discussion was focused around the institutional challenges faced during the H1N1 pandemic, what was handled well/poorly, and what some of the key ethical challenges were. For Session 2, participants were asked to discuss any unresolved issues and how they ought to be addressed in the future.

Common themes from each breakout group were presented to all members at the end of the day by group facilitators. Some of the issues from Session 1 included those around fostering and ensuring trust, developing risk communication within and between countries, the implications of changing demographics on planning assumptions, and improving jurisdictional co-ordination. In Session 2, some of the major themes revolved around planning for the worst case scenario, addressing the global standards of the WHO, using education as a tool to build public trust, and the need for better public engagement.

To close out the end of the Stakeholder Forum, the CanPREP team performed a reading of a theatre presentation, tentatively titled *Brantford 1918 (2010)*. The play's plot, written by CanPREP researcher Kate Rossiter and colleagues, incorporated archival research with CanPREP research, largely stemming from the public engagement through Town Hall Forums, focus groups, and national surveys.

The CanPREP team will be preparing a full summary report of the day which will be circulated to all stakeholders and collaborators. This report will also be available on the CanPREP website at www.canprep.ca.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND CONFERENCES

- **21st Canadian Bioethics Society Annual Conference** in Kelowna, BC, June 9-12, 2010. [\[http://en.cbskelowna2010.ca\]](http://en.cbskelowna2010.ca)

The theme of the 2010 Canadian Bioethics Society Conference is “Voices of Communities” focusing on voices of patients and families, voices of professionals and voices of the vulnerable. **CanPREP** research will be presented at two of the sessions – see ‘CanPREP News and Updates’ above for more information.

- **CPHA - Public Health in Canada: Shaping the Future** in Toronto, ON, June 13-16, 2010. [\[http://www.cpha.ca/en/conferences/conf2010.aspx\]](http://www.cpha.ca/en/conferences/conf2010.aspx)

On the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Canadian Public Health Association (CPHA), public health practitioners from across the country and around the world will meet in Toronto to celebrate a century of achievements and to shape the future of public health.

- **International Data Sharing Conference** in Oxford, UK, September 20-22, 2010. [\[http://helex.medsci.ox.ac.uk/data-sharing-international-conference-1\]](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. [\[http://www.asbh.org/meetings/annual/index.html\]](http://www.asbh.org/meetings/annual/index.html)

CanPREP will be presenting at two of the sessions this year. See ‘CanPREP News and Updates’ above for more information.

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