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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

### CanPREP White Paper Series

The CanPREP project has released its research findings related to ethical issues in a pandemic. The *CanPREP White Paper Series* contains nine 3-page white papers outlining CanPREP data and future research direction. Our hope is that these papers will provide a basis for deliberation and discussion of the issues right now, when there is still time to respond.

The *CanPREP White Paper Series* provides a preliminary analysis of the findings as well. Each paper discusses ethical issues related to nine particular research themes:

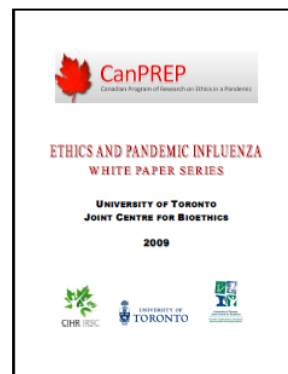
- Duty To Care – Ethical Considerations
- Duty To Care – Legal Considerations
- Priority-Setting
- Restrictive Measures
- Global Ethics
- Vaccines
- Risk Communication
- Vulnerability
- Public Trust

Furthermore, each paper addresses the following questions:

- A. *Why is this research theme an ethical issue in a pandemic?*
- B. *What are some of the key ethical considerations?*
- C. *What did Canadians tell us about this research theme in a pandemic?*
- D. *What does this mean for H1N1 response?*

The CanPREP White Paper Series is intended to stimulate reflection on and discussion of these issues. In the coming months, we will continue to report on our research findings.

The complete report can be found at [www.canprep.ca](http://www.canprep.ca)



## **CanPREP Focus Groups**

Public engagement has been a vital component to the CanPREP project. Through national surveys and numerous Town Hall forums across Canada, the project has repeatedly been gaining the perspectives of Canadian citizens on ethical issues in an influenza pandemic.

A pilot focus group was carried out in late July with an expert group of older adults. CanPREP is now looking to expand this by creating various groups with community care representatives, members working in critical care sectors such as the intensive care unit and emergency department, Aboriginal and First Nation groups, and homecare workers. Older adult populations will once again be engaged as well.

Focus group participants will be able to discuss their thoughts and ideas revolving around the areas of priority setting, vulnerability, the duty to care for health care providers, risk communication, and more. By involving a diverse set of population groups, CanPREP hopes these focus groups will bring into light specific ethical issues each group may face, or is currently facing, during an influenza pandemic.

The next month's Digest will be outlining the specific groups and participants for the upcoming focus groups.

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

The Public Symposium "Ethics & Pandemic Influenza" held by CanPREP at the University of Toronto Joint Centre for Bioethics on September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2009 gained extensive media coverage. Several major news sources such as The Globe and Mail, Ottawa Citizen, CTV News, National Post, Global TV, and the Canadian Free Press all contained stories on the CanPREP Symposium. Radio interviews were also given on Calgary's AM 770 and CBC Radio.

A full compilation of all media coverage for the symposium is now available on the CanPREP website, along with the full online broadcast of the symposium. View this month's Feature below for more on the "Ethics & Pandemic Influenza" Symposium.

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## 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.

### [Many willing to give up rights during outbreak: poll](#)

Ottawa Citizen

"Even though there may be some skepticism about perhaps overreaction to H1N1, let's remember the past. We weren't prepared for SARS," says Dr. Ross Upshur, Director, Joint Centre for Bioethics.

### [WHO experts say it's safe to drop old H1N1 strain from seasonal flu shots](#)

The Canadian Press

Influenza experts have urged vaccine manufacturers to drop one of the older strains of flu from the seasonal shot for next year's Southern Hemisphere winter, saying there are so few of those viruses around anymore they don't pose a significant public health threat.

### [Provincial flu plans all over the map](#)

The Globe and Mail

"We'll know who's smarter at the end of the flu season," said Ross Upshur, director of the University of Toronto's Joint Centre for Bioethics and a primary care physician. "What we assuredly have is an outbreak of unpublished research which is causing an epidemic of confusion."

### [China First to Vaccinate Against Novel H1N1 Virus](#)

Science

As the swine flu pandemic picks up steam, China is racing to immunize a sizable percentage of its 1.3 billion people before the pandemic's expected peak here this autumn or early winter. Epidemiologists here forecast that, without mass vaccination, tens of millions will become infected in China and hundreds of thousands will seek treatment.

### [Dr. Kumanan Wilson on the vaccine](#)

The Globe and Mail

Canada Research Chair in Public Health Policy at the University of Ottawa and Ottawa Hospital Research Institute takes your questions on the reluctance among Canadians to receive the H1N1 pandemic vaccine.

### [Ontario's three-phase plan – video link](#)

CTV News

Ontario announces a three-phase plan for fighting the flu this fall.

## NEW PUBLICATIONS (via .PDF links)

Satomura K, Kitamura T, Kawamura T et al. [Prevention of Upper Respiratory Tract Infections by Gargling: A Randomized Trial](#). American Journal of Preventive Medicine. 2009;29(4):302-7.

Mastroianni AC. [Slipping through the Net: Social Vulnerability in Pandemic Planning](#). The Hastings Centre Report. 2009;5:11-12.

Frolic A, Kata A, Kraus P. [Development of a Critical Care Triage Protocol for Pandemic Influenza: Integrating Ethics, Evidence and Effectiveness](#). Healthcare Quarterly. 2009;12(4):56-64.

Fink S. [Flu Nightmare: In Severe Pandemic, Officials Ponder Disconnecting Ventilators From Some Patients](#). ProPublica. 2009 Sept 23;361.

Shine KI, Rogers B, Goldfrank LR. [Novel H1N1 Influenza and Respiratory Protection for Health Care Workers](#). The New England Journal of Medicine. 2009 Sept;10.

Rappuoli R, Giudice GD, Nabel GJ et al. [Rethinking Influenza](#). Science. 2009.

Medlock J, Galvani AP. [Optimizing Influenza Vaccine Distribution](#). Science. 2009 Sept;325:1705-8.

Hartley DM, Nelson NP, Perencevich EN. [Antiviral drugs for treatment of patients with pandemic \(H1N1\) 2009 Virus](#). Emerging Infectious Diseases. 2009 Nov; [Epub ahead of print]

Warren-Gash C, Smeeth L, Hayward AC. [Influenza as a trigger for acute myocardial infarction or death from cardiovascular disease: a systematic review](#). The Lancet Infectious Diseases. 2009 Oct;9:601-10.

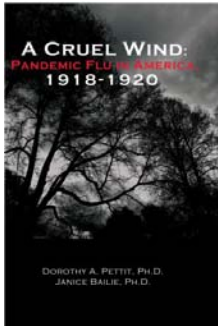
Brown C, Kondro, W. [Conflict emerges over value of hand washing as a preventive flu transmission measure](#). CMAJ. 2009 Oct.

Loeb M, Dafoe N, Mahony J. [Surgical Mask vs. N95 Respirator for Preventing Influenza Among Health Care Workers: A Randomized Trial](#). JAMA. 2009.

Fraser C, Donnelly CA, Cauchemez S, et al. [Pandemic Potential of a Strain of Influenza A \(H1N1\): Early Findings](#). Science. 2009;324:1557-61.

Eggertson L. [Pandemic \(H1N1\) 2009 lives in some people for at least eight days](#). CMAJ. 2009.

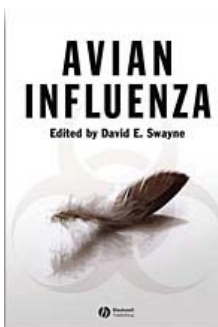
## BOOKS



### *"A Cruel Wind: Pandemic Flu in America 1918-1920"*

Dorothy A. Pettit

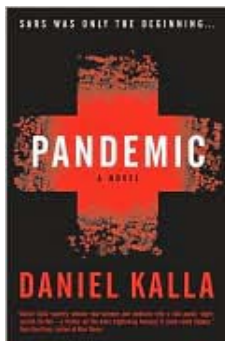
The flu pandemic that began in 1918 touched with illness virtually every family in America. It was a devastating time, far overshadowing the carnage of World War I as the pandemic killed more people in less time than any disease before or since. Because many experts believe that it is not a matter of if the world will encounter another 1918-like flu pandemic, but when, this social history of the pandemic should be considered essential reading for students, public health officials, doctors, nurses, journalists, and those in government office, interested in learning what worked and didn't during that grim time.



### *"Avian Influenza"*

David E. Swayne

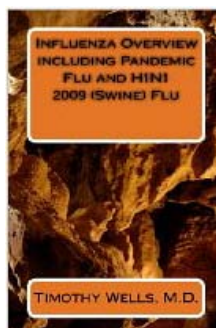
*Avian Influenza* provides the first comprehensive guide covering the full spectrum of this complex and increasingly high-profile disease, its history and its treatment and control. All aspects of avian influenza are dealt with in depth, systematically covering biology, virology, diagnostics, ecology, epidemiology, clinical medicine, and the control. The book fuses coverage of the latest discoveries in the basic sciences with a practical approach to dealing with the disease in a clinical setting, and providing instruction and guidance for veterinarians and government animal health officials encountering this disease in the field.



### *"Pandemic"*

Daniel Kalla

Full-time doctor and first-time novelist Kalla injects a frightening dose of reality into this tale of biological terrorism. Dr. Noah Haldane of the WHO has repeatedly warned that the human race is due for a deadly new virus, similar to the 1919 Spanish flu that killed 20 million people in six months. So when a mysterious new flu strain is reported in China's Gansu province, Haldane isn't surprised he's called to investigate. He's shocked to learn that the new disease--dubbed Acute Respiratory Collapse Syndrome (ARCS) and considered far more deadly than SARS. In the jet age, a killer bug can travel fast with devastating effects. While a few plot twists seem a little too convenient and some technical passages slow the pace, Kalla's ripped-from-the-headlines plot and confident command of both language and medicine make this book.



### *"Influenza Overview including Pandemic Flu and H1N1 2009 (Swine) Flu"*

Timothy Wells

Historical overview of Influenza including previous pandemics, biology, illness, and treatment. Updated coverage of the 2009 H1N1 (Swine) Flu pandemic.

## FEATURE

# 'Ethics & Pandemic Influenza' Symposium

### CanPREP holds its first public symposium to outline major pandemic ethical issues

On the afternoon of September 23<sup>rd</sup> 2009, the CanPREP project held a public symposium at the University of Toronto Joint Centre for Bioethics. The aim of this symposium was to address the ethical issues raised by the current H1N1 pandemic, including the duty to care of health care providers, allocation of scarce resources, risk communication, and the use of restrictive measures. Symposium attendees included health care providers, professional college representatives, community organizations, and the public. The symposium was also covered extensively by various media representatives and was broadcasted live online. The afternoon consisted of two sessions, each consisting of a CanPREP presentation, a panel discussion, and a discussion period.



Dr. Ross Upshur began the symposium with an overview of CanPREP's current research in duty to care, priority-setting, restrictive measures, and global ethics. Preliminary research findings from each of these areas were shared, including national survey results and CanPREP Pandemic Town Hall data. These findings focused on data collected through public engagement, a main focus of the CanPREP project.



Panelists for both sessions were selected from various disciplines involved in pandemic planning and response. The panelists for the first respondent panel were Brian Schwartz, Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion; Elaine Johnston, Mamaweswen North Shore Tribal Council; Cindy Bruce-Barrett, Hospital for Sick Children; and Jeff Blackmer, Canadian Medical Association.

Panelists for the second panel were Barbara Yaffe, Toronto Public Health; Tara Tyson, Toronto Community Care Access Centre; Gerda Kaegi, Canadian Pensioners Concerned Inc.; and Gillian Howard, Toronto Academic Health Science Network.

CanPREP research was highlighted once again in the second session where work on current research topics was shared. While the project is working on several current research topics, our work on vaccines, risk communication, vulnerability, and public trust were presented.

The *CanPREP White Paper Series* was also made available at the symposium. The CanPREP team prepared a series of 'white papers' on the ethical challenges posed by pandemic influenza. This series contains nine 3-page white papers outlining research findings from the major CanPREP themes. A copy of the CanPREP White Paper Series can be downloaded from the CanPREP website ([www.canprep.ca](http://www.canprep.ca)).

The panelists shared many emerging issues relating to their specific area of influenza pandemic work. Some of the major ones included the need for culture to be addressed, especially in the First Nations communities. Different cultures contain different aspects, thus altering their perceptions on H1N1 response. Furthermore, the use of correct language and terminology must be implemented for clear messaging and communication.

Influenza pandemic issues that pediatric patients will face were also brought forward. Many current protocols are adult focused, thus there must be more work done on these through a pediatric lens. When working with children, families are often involved in decision making and this must be implemented when forming pandemic triaging protocols.

Ventilator scarcity and triaging was brought up once again, however the issue of when to remove patients from ventilators was also mentioned.

Overall, a clear recurring theme that arose throughout the panelist discussions was the particular challenges that may arise in the community during an influenza pandemic. CanPREP hopes to tackle these issues in its upcoming research work.

The CanPREP team would like to thank all panelists and attendees for making the CanPREP "Ethics & Pandemic Influenza" Public Symposium a great success. Many more ethical issues must be addressed revolving around the H1N1 pandemic, thus CanPREP is in the preliminary stages of organizing a second symposium in November. Details will be released in next month's CanPREP Digest and on [www.canprep.ca](http://www.canprep.ca).



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The entire video broadcast of the symposium can be viewed online at the CanPREP website.

## UPCOMING EVENTS AND CONFERENCES

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

CanPREP member Diego S. Silva will be presenting CanPREP's National Telephone Survey data and its significance in the current H1N1 pandemic influenza.

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

- **The Ethics of Pandemic-Driven Healthcare Resource Rationing** in Baltimore, MD, October 27, 2009. [<http://www.bioethics.net/events.php?viewEvent=5872>]

This conference explores the ethics of health care resource rationing in the context of the H1N1 flu pandemic. What ethical decision-making guidelines should inform distribution of limited access to masks, ventilators, vaccines and other medicines, and staff? This conference will be of interest to health care ethics committee members and health care staff who have a role or interest in disaster planning at their institution.

- **9th Canadian Immunization Conference, Immunization: A Global Challenge for the 21<sup>st</sup> 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)