

**Administration Canadian International School**  
**Pandemic Influenza Policy**

The purpose of CIS' pandemic policy is to provide guidance to the CIS as it faces the possibility of pandemic influenza in the community surrounding CIS or within the school population.

The goal is to prevent the spread of disease within the school community, protect the unaffected members of the school population, and provide an example of prudent caution to the community.

**What to do?**

**If pandemic influenza is seen as a threat by relevant authorities, the school nurse will remain informed** of the progress of the disease using material distributed by following organization:

World Health Organization                    <http://who.int/en/>  
Local Information                                <http://stg2.kar.nic.in/healthnew>

The nurse will monitor recommendations from health authorities and bring these to the School Leadership Team.

**The School Leadership Team**, in consultation with the nurse, will decide if there is sufficient warrant to take school wide action based on the steps outlined in the **Infectious Disease Decision Making Matrix** (appended). These actions may include:

1. Monitoring staff and students for evidence of the disease (see Pandemic Screening Questionnaire) and/or implementing a self-monitoring program (see Temperature Tracker for students and staff)
2. Restricting students and/or staff who have come in contact with doctor diagnosed infected people from attending school
3. Closing on-site school, but maintaining school assignments through the school website or other technological method
4. Closing school for a sufficient time to allow the disease to abate

**Students and/or staff with flu-like symptoms should not come to school** and must seek medical attention, especially if they have been in contact with persons known to have the disease or have been in an area where the disease has been present. Initially the disease may appear like a severe case of regular influenza. Symptoms can range from typical flu-like symptoms (fever, chills, cough, sore throat, muscle aches, headaches) to eye inflammation, severe pneumonia, acute respiratory distress, severe diarrhea, encephalitis (brain inflammation), seizures, or coma. See health tips below for persons who suspect they may have contracted the disease. Persons who believe they have the illness must inform CIS of their status and with whom they have had recent contact within the CIS community. They should seek immediate medical attention.

**If a student or staff member appears to have contracted the disease and is at school,** he/she must be isolated immediately in the nurse's office and those in contact with him/her must take the necessary precautions (wear protective clothing, including a mask, gown, gloves and goggles). A supply of masks, etc., sufficient for 20 people must be kept at within easy access at the nurse's office. The allegedly infected person must immediately be removed from CIS and taken to a government designated hospital for further testing and evaluation using CSI's normal procedure for sending a person to the hospital from school. The school **must** be notified of the results of the tests so that it can take necessary precautions in preventing the spread of the disease through the rest of the school population. Unprotected persons in contact with the patient will be sent home until the incubation period is over and the person has no signs of the disease, after which the person will return to school.

The School Leadership Team will dismiss the school and inform parents, students, and staff that they should remain away from school until further notice once a decision is taken. A core of healthy staff will remain in school to maintain contact with local health authorities and maintain technological services so that the school community is able to stay informed about the duration of the closure. Teachers are encouraged to have sufficient lessons planned so that school may continue while students are at home, and the Information Technology Head will make it possible for teachers to post assignments on the school website for access by members of the school community.

**Pandemic Influenza:** A pandemic can start when three conditions have been met: a new influenza virus subtype emerges; it infects humans, causing serious illness; and it spreads easily and sustainably among humans. No one has immunity from this virus.

**Health Tips for persons who suspect they have contracted the illness:**

- WHO believes it is important to prevent human influenza from spreading.
- Anyone with flu-like symptoms should be careful with body secretions when around other people, especially small children, in order to not spread the disease.
- Cover your nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing. Use a tissue and throw it away once used. Teach children to do this as well.
- Always wash your hands with soap and water after any contact with body secretions as these can carry the virus.
- Children are especially prone to touching their face, eyes and mouth with unwashed hands. Teach children the importance of hand washing after coughing, sneezing, using the washroom and touching dirty objects.
- Inform the health authorities immediately and seek medical advice from a health professional if you develop signs of illness, such as fever and/or flu-like symptoms.

**World Health Organization Phases of a Pandemic**

(source: [http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian\\_influenza/phase/en/](http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/phase/en/))

- In nature, influenza viruses circulate continuously among animals, especially birds. Even though such viruses might theoretically develop into pandemic viruses, in **Phase 1** no viruses circulating among animals have been reported to cause infections in humans.
- In **Phase 2** an animal influenza virus circulating among domesticated or wild animals is known to have caused infection in humans, and is therefore considered a potential pandemic threat.
- In **Phase 3**, an animal or human-animal influenza reassortant virus has caused sporadic cases or small clusters of disease in people, but has not resulted in human-to-human transmission sufficient to sustain community-level outbreaks. Limited human-to-human transmission may occur under some circumstances, for example, when there is close contact between an infected person and an unprotected caregiver. However, limited transmission under such restricted circumstances does not indicate that the virus has gained the level of transmissibility among humans necessary to cause a pandemic.
- **Phase 4** is characterized by verified human-to-human transmission of an animal or human-animal influenza reassortant virus able to cause “community-level outbreaks.” The ability to cause sustained disease outbreaks in a community marks a significant upwards shift in the risk for a pandemic. Any country that suspects or has verified such an event should urgently consult with WHO so that the situation can be jointly assessed and a decision made by the affected country if implementation of a rapid pandemic containment operation is warranted. Phase 4 indicates a significant increase in risk of a pandemic but does not necessarily mean that a pandemic is a foregone conclusion.
- **Phase 5** is characterized by human-to-human spread of the virus into at least two countries in one WHO region. While most countries will not be affected at this stage, the declaration of Phase 5 is a strong signal that a pandemic is imminent and that the time to finalize the organization, communication, and implementation of the planned mitigation measures is short.
- **Phase 6**, the pandemic phase, is characterized by community level outbreaks in at least one other country in a different WHO region in addition to the criteria defined in **Phase 5**. Designation of this phase will indicate that a global pandemic is under way.
- During the **post-peak period**, pandemic disease levels in most countries with adequate surveillance will have dropped below peak observed levels. The post-peak period signifies that pandemic activity appears to be decreasing; however, it is uncertain if additional waves will occur and countries will need to be prepared for a second wave.
- Previous pandemics have been characterized by waves of activity spread over months. Once the level of disease activity drops, a critical communications task will be to balance this information with the possibility of another wave. Pandemic waves can be separated by months and an immediate “at-ease” signal may be premature.
- In the **post-pandemic period**, influenza disease activity will have returned to levels normally seen for seasonal influenza. It is expected that the pandemic virus will behave as a seasonal influenza A virus. At this stage, it is important to maintain surveillance and update pandemic preparedness and response plans accordingly. An intensive phase of recovery and evaluation may be required.