

Improving our pandemic planning

- Goal is to facilitate the recognition, management, and mitigation of a large-scale infectious disease outbreak.
- To meet these criteria we need plans that use clear and non-technical language, encourage partnerships, and have utility upon the first reading.
- We need plans that are clear, collaborative, and that work.

Lessons from 2009

- Our expectations will be wrong.
- Though we planned for the wrong event, some preparations had benefit.
- We need to take further steps, but cannot plan for every contingency.

Short and simple, no jargon

- We need plans that are clear, collaborative, and that work.
- The goal is a product that can be implemented in hours.
- Plan must be modular, dynamic.
- Clear progression of steps.
- Our plan should offer guidance, define responsibilities, and specify support.

Strategic or operational

- Know your audience and the goal of your plan.

Partnership

- A functional plan will require input from a range of specialties.
- Communities must also be engaged.
- Professional bodies for those expected to engage in the response are key stakeholders.

Benefits vs. responsibilities

- Communication pathways and strategies will be key.
- Transparency of responsibilities and benefits will encourage plan execution.
- Be aggressive in shutting down unnecessary reporting requirements.

One health

- Authorities in agriculture and animal health are crucial to prevent zoonotic pathogens from producing human pandemics.

Utility is everything

- Work to design a useful product.
- Local flexibility is an asset.
- Use existing structures to the degree feasible.

- Command and control must be clear and up-to-date.

It's pretty, but does it work?

- Model, exercise, and frequently revise your plan.

Options

- Interpandemic surveillance is key.
- Seek pledges from governments at all levels not to interfere in resource sharing during a crisis.
- Encourage preventative measures such as vaccination.