



KELLERMAYER BERGENSONS SERVICES

Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Additional Resources



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kbs-services.com/COVID-19/

In response to the current outbreaks of COVID-19, KBS is proactively monitoring information released by health officials concerning the coronavirus.

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION PHASES

The World Health Organization (WHO) developed an alert system to help inform the world about the seriousness of pandemic. The alert system has six phases, with Phase 1 having the lowest risk of human cases and Phase 6 posing the greatest risk of a pandemic. Organizations are encouraged to monitor the WHO phases and establish continuity “triggers” as deemed appropriate.

The phases are applicable globally and provide a framework to aid countries in pandemic preparedness and response planning.

Table 1: World Health Organization Pandemic Influenza Phases

Phase 1	No animal influenza virus circulating among animals has been reported to cause infection in humans.
Phase 2	An animal influenza virus circulating in domesticated or wild animals is known to have caused infection in humans and is therefore considered a specific potential COVID-19 Coronavirus threat.
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.
Phase 4	Human-to-human transmission (H2H) of an animal or human-animal influenza reassortant virus able to sustain community-level outbreaks has been verified.
Phase 5	The same identified virus has caused sustained community level outbreaks in two or more countries in one WHO region.
Phase 6	In addition to the criteria defined in Phase 5, the same virus has caused sustained community level outbreaks in at least one other country in another WHO region.
Post-Peak Period	Levels of COVID-19 Coronavirus influenza in most countries with adequate surveillance have dropped below peak levels.
Possible New Wave	Level of COVID-19 Coronavirus influenza activity in most countries with adequate surveillance rising again.
Post- Virus Period	Levels of influenza activity have returned to the levels seen for seasonal influenza in most countries with adequate surveillance.

The WHO phases of pandemic alert:

In the 2009 revision of the phase descriptions, WHO has retained the use of a six-phased approach for easy incorporation of new recommendations and approaches into existing national preparedness and response plans. The grouping and description of pandemic phases have been revised to make them easier to understand, more precise, and based upon observable phenomena.

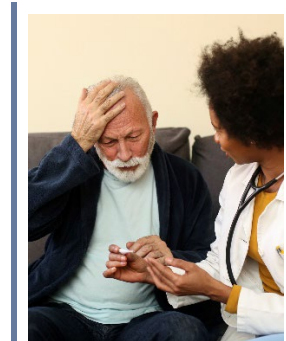
Phases 1–3 correlate with preparedness, including capacity development and response planning activities, while **Phases 4–6** clearly signal the need for response and mitigation efforts. Furthermore, periods after the first pandemic wave are elaborated to facilitate post pandemic recovery activities.

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.

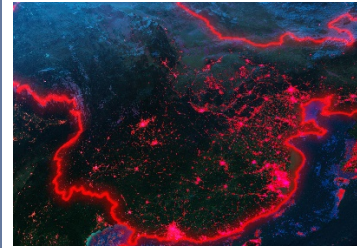
In **Phase 3**, an animal or human-animal influenza reassortant virus has caused sporadic cases or small clusters of disease in people but has not resulted in human-to-human transmission sufficient to sustain community-level outbreaks. Limited human-to-human transmission may occur under some circumstances, 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 forgone 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, disease activity will have returned to levels normally seen for seasonal influenza. 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.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATIONAL RESOURCES

- <http://www.opm.gov/pandemic/index.asp>
- <http://www.cdc.gov/flu>
- <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avian>
- <http://www.pandemicflu.gov/>
- <http://www.pandemicflu.gov/general/greatpandemic3.html#sc>
- <http://www.scemd.org/Plans/index.htm>
- <http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/>
- <http://www.pandemicflu.gov/>
- <http://www.pandemicflu.gov/plan/pdf/cikrpandemicguide.pdf>
- <http://www.hhs.gov/pandemicflu/plan/>
- <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/>
- http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/symptoms/index.html?s_cid=cs_284
- <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs103/en/>

KBS cleaners use the correct products and processes to keep your facility safe and free of contamination so that you, your employees, and your customers are safe.

Please reach out to your day-to-day KBS contact to discuss additional deep cleaning and disinfecting of potential cross-contamination points. We welcome the opportunity to also assist new customers. Please contact us at 800-537-1375 or sales@kbs-services.com to learn more.