

## **Guidance on the use of Non-pharmaceutical Interventions**

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in collaboration with other Federal agencies and partners in the public health, education, business, healthcare and private sectors, have released interim guidance on the use of non-pharmaceutical interventions to mitigate an influenza pandemic. These measures are expected to be an important component of a comprehensive community mitigation strategy that includes both pharmaceutical and non-pharmaceutical measures.

The guidance introduces, for the first time, a Pandemic Severity Index in which the case fatality ratio (the proportion of deaths among clinically ill persons) serves as the critical driver for categorizing the severity of a pandemic. Future pandemics will be assigned to one of five discrete categories of increasing severity (Category 1 to Category 5). The Pandemic Severity Index provides communities a tool for scenario-based contingency planning to guide local pre-pandemic preparedness efforts. This will provide local decision-makers with recommendations that are matched to the severity of future pandemics.

The pandemic mitigation interventions described in the document include:

1. Isolation and treatment (as appropriate), with influenza antiviral medications of all persons with confirmed or probable pandemic influenza.
2. Voluntary home quarantine of members of households with confirmed or probable influenza cases.
3. Dismissal of students from school (including public and private schools as well as colleges and universities) and school-based activities and closure of childcare programs.
4. Use of social distancing measures to reduce contact between adults in the community and workplace, including cancellation of large public gathering and alteration of workplace environments and schedules to decrease social density.

The full document is posted at [www.pandemicflu.gov](http://www.pandemicflu.gov). This planning guidance will be refined as new information is gained from research, exercises, and practical experience.

Local health jurisdictions are encouraged to utilize this resource to help them in their pre-pandemic preparedness planning. To further assist your planning, DPHHS PHEP will be providing written guidance for developing local plans for non-pharmaceutical control and community containment of communicable disease.