

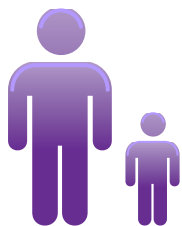
How is Pandemic Influenza Different?

THE FACTS

There are many different types of influenza.

Below are 4 commonly known types.

Pandemic influenza is a new form of the influenza virus that has never before circulated among people. It is not regular, seasonal flu, and it is not avian flu, or swine flu.



SEASONAL FLU

- Human viral respiratory infection
- Usually not severe, but can be serious and fatal in the elderly and in very young children
- Symptoms include fever, runny nose, coughing, sneezing and headache
- The virus strain circulating every year can be predicted
- Occurs seasonally
- Routine vaccination available



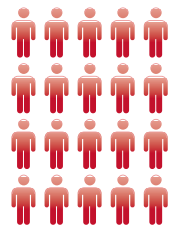
BIRD FLU

- A bird virus – different from a human influenza virus
- Spreads from birds to birds
- Can sometimes infect humans
- Can sometimes mutate into a human virus



SWINE FLU

- A pig virus – different from a human influenza virus
- Spreads mostly from pigs to pigs
- Can sometimes infect humans who have been in close contact with pigs
- Can sometimes mutate into human virus



PANDEMIC FLU

- Symptoms are similar to seasonal flu, but are usually more severe and complications tend to be more serious
- Because it is caused by a new virus, people do not have immunity against it
- Global disease outbreak
- Rare but recurrent event (every 10 – 42 years)
- Affects more people and causes more deaths

Source: Adapted from WHO and IFRC



April 29, 2009

GET READY NOW!