



Alameda County Public Health Department Emergency Preparedness Program

Emergency Preparedness Special Alert

June 2009

H1N1 FLU – A WORLDWIDE PANDEMIC

The World Health Organization (WHO) has raised the new flu virus called H1N1 to the highest alert level possible; Phase 6.

The Phase 6 alert was given by WHO because:

1. People from many countries across the world have been diagnosed with the H1N1 flu.
2. There is no vaccine available to protect people who don't have it from getting it.
3. The virus continues to spread from person to another.

A Phase 6 doesn't mean that the H1N1 is suddenly more 'deadly'. But because it continues to spread from person to person, and because there is no cure, it may cause many deaths.

A Phase 6 alert level to world leaders means they must put safeguards in place to reduce the spread of H1N1 and the harm it can cause to the people, country, and the world, even if they have not yet had any cases of the disease in their own country.

A Phase 6 alert level to the Alameda County Public Health Department means we will continue to monitor and investigate H1N1 cases and continue to advise people about how to protect themselves. It also means preparing ourselves and the Department for more cases this winter.

ABOUT The World Health Organization (WHO): WHO is the directing & coordinating authority for health within the United Nations. It provides leadership on global health matters, shapes the health research agenda, sets norms & standards, articulates evidence-based policy options, provides technical support to countries and monitors and assesses health trends.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Alameda County Updates: www.acphd.org/H1N1
State Updates from the CA Dpt of PH: www.cdph.ca.gov
Frequently Asked Questions about WHO Pandemic Phases:
<http://www.who.int/cst/disease/influenza/phase/en/>
WHO Pandemic Phases:
http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/phase/en/