



BRITISH COLUMBIA PANDEMIC INFLUENZA CONSEQUENCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

(Fall 2009)



**Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport
Ministry of Health Services
and
Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor
General -
Emergency Management British
Columbia**



Managing a pandemic influenza outbreak is primarily the responsibility of agencies tasked with disease control and public health. However, an effective response to the severe secondary impacts of a pandemic influenza would require the coordination of all emergency management partners.

The BC Pandemic Influenza Consequence Management Plan represents a tripartite agreement between the Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport, the Ministry of Health Services and Emergency Management British Columbia of the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General defining an integrated and collaborative approach to managing the severe secondary consequences of pandemic influenza in British Columbia.

The scope of this plan is limited to those pandemic events that are of such a severe impact that they will cause secondary consequences which pose a risk or imminent risk to public safety.

We, the undersigned, adopt this Plan as a framework that defines each organization's roles and responsibilities with respect to mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery efforts as they relate to the pandemic influenza hazard in British Columbia.

Approved by the undersigned this date, 29th of October, 2009.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

The province's response to a pandemic outbreak will be led by those agencies responsible for disease control and public health applying provisions of the *Public Health Act* as appropriate. The [BC H1N1 Pandemic Influenza Response Plan \(2009\)](#) outlines the activities of the health sector to mitigate and respond to a pandemic influenza.

Not all influenza outbreaks that satisfy the criteria established by the World Health Organization (WHO) for pandemic influenza will overtax the health and/or psychosocial support systems. Pandemic influenzas that present challenges typical of those faced during seasonal influenza outbreaks are outside the scope of this plan.

While the [Emergency Program Act \(1996\)](#) and the [Compensation and Disaster Financial Assistance Regulation](#) do not recognize a pandemic outbreak as a disaster, they do provide the capacity for the province and local authorities to respond to a wide range of severe secondary consequences which may result from a pandemic (e.g. reduced fire protection or water treatment services).

A pandemic influenza with serious secondary consequences that pose a risk to public safety will require the activation of the BC emergency management structure and the support of all emergency management stakeholders, including local governments. The *British Columbia Pandemic Influenza Consequence Management Plan (Fall 2009)* describes the provincial government's strategy for coordinating provincial mitigation/prevention, preparedness, response and recovery efforts to address human needs, critical service disruption and business continuity consequences of pandemic influenza exclusive of the health system.

This plan sets out a concept of operations that fosters cooperation and collaboration among multiple organizations involved in active management of the consequences associated with the pandemic influenza hazard. This includes governments at all levels, community and regional services and non-governmental organizations.

1.1 Signatory Roles

The Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport (MHLS) is responsible for setting out the manner and means by which the province will respond to the hazard of disease and epidemics. These duties are assigned to the Provincial Health Officer, who partners with the British Columbia Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) and Medical Health Officers in the regional health authorities.

The Emergency Management Unit (EMU) of the Ministry of Health Services (MoHS) exists to ensure that the provincial health system is capable of planning

for, responding to and recovering from the impacts of extreme events, whether natural, accidental or intentional in nature. The mission of the Emergency Management Unit is to deliver a comprehensive provincial emergency management program for the health sector, based on an all hazard, common consequence approach, which recognizes the uniqueness and requirements of individual health regions. The EMU also has responsibility for the Ministry's Pandemic Influenza Operational Planning Project (PIOPP).

The mission of Emergency Management British Columbia (EMBC) is to enhance public safety by: mitigating the effects of emergencies and disasters through education and awareness; promoting preparedness through planning, training and exercising; coordinating and assisting in response activities and developing and implementing recovery strategies for local implementation.

As well, EMBC's Business Continuity Management Program (BCMP) provides strategic leadership, coordination, information, tools and assistance to provincial government ministries to increase the preparedness of the province to maintain critical government services during and following a major disruptive event. It is also responsible for providing evaluation criteria and support for response, recovery, resumption and restoration efforts for mission critical provincial government programs.

This plan also serves as an information resource for our partners in emergency management. Organizations with response and recovery roles are encouraged to draw principles and guidance from the concepts presented here.

1.2 Plan Description

The scope of this plan is limited to those pandemic events that are of such a significant impact that they will cause severe secondary consequences which pose a risk or imminent risk to public safety.

The Plan contains three descriptive sections: Introduction; Emergency Management Pillars; and Other Support Agencies.

The Introduction includes the purpose of the plan, definitions, background information, legal authority and planning assumptions.

The Emergency Management Pillars section is based on the four pillars of emergency management: prevention/mitigation; preparedness; response and recovery. It describes the activities and framework used by MoHS, MHLS, EMBC, health authorities, local authorities and key federal government departments to reduce the human needs and critical service impacts of pandemic influenza events.

