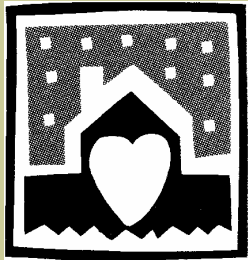


How Does Seasonal Flu Differ From Pandemic Flu?



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For additional information on seasonal
flu visit: <http://www.hhs.gov/flu/>

For additional information on pandemic
flu visit: <http://www.pandemicflu.gov>

Seasonal Flu

- Outbreaks follow predictable seasonal patterns; occur annually, usually in winter, in temperate climates.
- Usually some immunity built up from previous exposure.
- Healthy adults are usually not at risk for serious complications but; the very young, the elderly and those with certain underlying health conditions are at increased risk for serious complications.
- Health systems can usually meet public and patient needs.
- The vaccine is developed based on known flu strains and available for annual flu season.
- Average U.S. deaths are approximately 36,000/yr.
- Symptoms include: fever, cough, runny nose, muscle pain. Pneumonia may cause death.
- Generally causes modest impact on society (e.g., some school closing, encouragement of people who are sick to stay home).
- Manageable impact on domestic and world economy.

Pandemic Flu

- Occurs rarely (three times in 20th century—last in 1968).
- No previous exposure; little or no pre-existing immunity.
- Healthy people may be at an increased risk for serious complications.
- Health systems may be overwhelmed.
- Vaccine would probably not be available in the early stages of a pandemic.
- Effective antivirals may be in limited supply.
- Number of deaths could be quite high (e.g. widespread restrictions on travel, closings of schools and businesses, cancellation of large public gatherings).
- Potential for severe impact on domestic and world economy.