

U.S. to rank pandemics like hurricanes

The U.S. government will predict the severity of the next flu pandemic just like forecasters predict hurricane strength – using a ranking system to help communities determine when they should take increasingly strong steps to combat the spread of flu

Projected Deaths*

PANDEMIC SEVERITY INDEX



1 Up to 90,000

Category 1: Recommend voluntary isolation and treatment of ill persons

2 90,000-450,000

Category 2-3: Recommend household members of ill persons to stay at home

3 450,000-900,000

Consider dismissal of students from schools and closing child care programmes for up to one month, and reducing contact among children and teens in community

4 900,000-1,800,000

Consider social distancing of adults at work and in community, including closing large public gatherings, and changing workplace environments and work schedules – without disrupting essential services

5 More than 1,800,000

Category 4-5: Recommend all of above. School closures and child social distancing measures extended for up to three months

**Assumes 30% illness rate and unmitigated pandemic without interventions*

Sources: CDCP, www.pandemicflu.gov

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