

WHO warns flu pandemic imminent

The WHO warns that the world is at the brink of a pandemic and has raised its alert level to five as a result of the increasing number of people being confirmed as infected across the globe



PANDEMIC INFLUENZA PHASES

Predominantly animal infections; few human infections

Phases 1-3

Sustained human to human transmission

Phase 4

Widespread human infection

Phases 5-6 PANDEMIC

Possibility of recurrent events

Post peak

Disease activity at seasonal levels

Post pandemic

PHASE 1 No viruses circulating among animals causing infections in humans

PHASE 2 Animal influenza virus causes infection in humans, and is considered potential pandemic threat

PHASE 3 Influenza causes sporadic cases in people, but no significant human-to-human transmission

PHASE 4 Verified human-to-human transmission able to cause community-level outbreaks. Significant increase in risk of pandemic

PHASE 5 Human-to-human transmission in at least two countries in one WHO region. Strong signal pandemic imminent

PHASE 6 Virus spreads to another country in different WHO region. Global pandemic under way