

Disclaimer

This draft IH Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Plan is for **internal planning purposes only**. It is to be used by the Interior Health Emergency Response Planning Infectious Hazards Task Force (IHERPTF), and related internal stakeholders, to further expand upon the roles and responsibilities specific to the health authority's response to an influenza pandemic, and to outline proposed operational guidelines and protocols for frontline staff members.

In addition, the PIPP is considered a "living" document. Its contents are to be reviewed and revised on an ongoing basis to incorporate provincial updates and directives, and to reflect current knowledge, best practices, results from exercises/tabletops, and internal Interior Health planning considerations.

The IH PIPP and its related sections follow from the best practices in pandemic influenza planning and response mechanisms outlined in a number of federal, provincial, and local plans. These plans include:

- *World Health Organization Global Influenza Preparedness Plan (2005)*
- *Canadian Pandemic Influenza Plan for the Health Sector (2006)*
- *British Columbia Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Plan (2005)*
- *Fraser Health Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Plan (2007)*
- *Ontario Health Plan for an Influenza Pandemic (2007)*
- *Region of Waterloo Community Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Plan (2007)*

Moreover, Interior Health's plan not only overviews all regional plans and protocols, but is to act as the point of reference and linkage between all regional plans in the event of an influenza pandemic.

An Interior Health system-wide approach is required when planning for emergency response to infectious hazard threats such as pandemic influenza. During an influenza pandemic, all sectors of Interior Health will be impacted, including public health, acute care, home and community care, mental health and addictions, and corporate operations.

BC Ministry of Health (MOH) policy requires the adoption of the BC Emergency Response Management System (BCERMS) standards by health authorities in the development of emergency response plans. Interior Health has adopted these standards in the creation of a Health Authority BC Emergency Response Management System (HABCERMS). The HABCERMS is a comprehensive management system that ensures a coordinated and organized response to all emergencies and disasters, and will be activated during an influenza pandemic.

The IHERPTF will act as the lead internal group for the oversight of this plan, and all related pandemic planning tools and components within the health authority. Collaboration with facility and agency leaders across Interior Health will be essential when updating this plan and all related response tools. The members of the IHERPTF will both be notified of any recommended revisions/updates to these materials and will be asked to provide feedback on an ongoing basis.