

Phases of an Influenza Pandemic  
World Health Organization, 2005

<b>Interpandemic Period</b>	
Phase 1	No new influenza virus subtypes have been detected in humans. An influenza virus subtype that has caused human infection may be present in animals. If present in animals, the risk of human infection or disease is considered to be low
Phase 2	No new influenza virus subtypes have been detected in humans. However, a circulating animal influenza virus subtype poses a substantial risk of human disease
<b>Pandemic Alert Period</b>	
Phase 3	Human infection(s) with a new subtype but no human-to-human spread or at most rare instances of spread to a close contact
Phase 4	Small cluster(s) with limited human-to-human transmission but spread is highly localized, suggesting that the virus is not well adapted to humans
Phase 5	Large cluster(s) but human-to-human spread is still localized, suggesting that the virus is becoming increasingly better adapted to humans but may not yet be fully transmissible (substantial pandemic risk)
<b>Pandemic Period*</b>	
Phase 6	Pandemic phase: increased and sustained transmission in the general population
<b>Postpandemic Period</b>	
Return to Interpandemic Period (Phase 1)	

\*Second or subsequent pandemic waves may follow the initial wave, usually within three to nine months.