

MONTSERRAT STRATEGIC PLAN FOR PANDEMIC INFLUENZA PREPAREDNESS

**Phase 3. Pre pandemic:** Human infection with the new subtype with no or very limited human-to-human transmission

Functional Area	Activity	Person/Agency Responsible	Supporting Personnel/Resources	Means of Verification/Status
<b>Planning and Coordination</b>	Apprise decision makers of the potential impact of and the need to prepare for an influenza pandemic	Epidemiologist/Health Planner, Director DMCA, Senior Livestock Vet Assistant	Permanent Secretaries in the MHCS & MAHLE	Report of meeting available – <i>Complete - meeting held April 23, 2007</i>
	Establish a National Influenza Pandemic Planning & Preparedness Committee (NIPPPC) & identify Chairperson(s)	Executive Council on the advice of the Minister of Health	Epidemiologist, Director DMCA, MAHLE Influenza Pandemic preparedness focal person, P S Health	Directive from Executive Council - <i>Complete</i>
	Establish sub-committees, identify roles and responsibilities of each: - Surveillance & Monitoring - Investigation & treatment - Population containment & Communication - Health services continuity - Animal health	Chairperson NIPPPC	PAHO Guidelines, DMCA, Primary & Secondary Health Care Team, Legal Department, MAHLE animal health division, Customs & Excise Dept, Development Unit, RMPF, Red Cross, St John Ambulance Brigade, Poultry farmers,	Report from NIPPC meeting accepting the recommendations for composition of Sub-committees and their roles & responsibilities within one month of Directive received from Executive Council <i>Complete – Notes on file</i>
	Assess the potential impact of a pandemic on Montserrat	Epidemiologist	Surveillance Sub-committee, PAHO Software	Influenza impact assessment on file <i>Complete – Report on file</i>
	Finalise the Strategic Influenza Pandemic Preparedness Plan	NIPPPC	Sub-committee members, PAHO Guidelines, PS Health	Completed Strategic Plan available for implementation by December 31, 2007 <i>Complete</i>
	Develop operational plans for implementation of each section of the Strategic Plan	NIPPPC	Members of all Sub-committees	Draft Operational Plans (5) available for implementation by March 31, 2008 – <i>2 complete, 3 pending</i>

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<b>Planning &amp; Coordination</b>	Put in place a financial team to cost needed resources, identify sources of funding and compile a budget	P S Health	Assistant Secretary Finance & Systems, NIPPPC, staff from Development Unit	Budget prepared and submitted to NIPPPC by March 31, 2008 - <i>Pending</i>
	Liaise with DMCA to ensure the existing MoU regarding the availability of adequate food supplies in the event of natural disasters includes the eventuality of an influenza pandemic	Health Disaster Coordinator	DMCA, Emergency preparedness Sub-committee	Report submitted to the NIPPPC by March 31, 2008 - <i>Complete</i>
	Conduct table top exercise(s) and use results to update national plan.	NIPPPC	PAHO Guidelines, NIPPPC	Simulation exercise conducted and results reviewed – <i>Completed Feb 2009</i>
	Develop a plan for recovery after a pandemic	NIPPPC	DMCA, MHCS, MAHLE	Draft Recovery Plan prepared by June 30, 2008 - <i>Pending</i>
<b>Situation Monitoring &amp; Surveillance</b>	Assess the normal burden of influenza in Montserrat via surveillance	Epidemiologist	Ministry of health staff involved in surveillance activities	Weekly & Four-weekly Surveillance Reports – <i>Ongoing</i>
	Strengthen national systems for influenza surveillance in both humans and animals based on WHO, FAO guidance	Epidemiologist/ MAHLE Focal Person	Surveillance staff of MHCS & MAHLE	Training Reports detailing material covered and list of attendees – <i>Complete 2 sessions held in 2006 &amp; 2007</i>
	Ensure protocols are in place for early warning, alert and outbreak verification	Epidemiologist/ MAHLE Focal Person	Surveillance staff of MHCS & MAHLE	Surveillance Manual outlining protocols circulated – <i>Complete</i>

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<b>Situation Monitoring &amp; Surveillance</b>	Identify and train Pandemic Flu outbreak /response team(s)	Epidemiologist	Surveillance Response Team, PAHO Epidemiologist	Training Report including list of attendees on-file by March 31, 2008 <i>Trainees identified – training partially completed</i>
	Develop Standard Operating Procedures for monitoring of persons entering at the ports	Chairperson Population Containment Sub-committee	Surveillance Sub-committee & Containment Sub-committee	Operating Procedures completed by April 30, 2008 – <i>Draft SOPs complete</i>
	Explore likelihood of increasing laboratory capacity to enable influenza rapid testing	Chairperson Surveillance Sub-committee	Glendon Lab & CAREC staff	Recommendation submitted to NIPPPC by January 31, 2008 – Complete
	Strengthen linkages with regional laboratories to facilitate identification of influenza sub-types	Epidemiologist	Senior Medical Technologist, CAREC staff	<i>On-going</i>
	Monitor regional and international surveillance activities related to influenza	Epidemiologist	CAREC, FluNet	<i>Ongoing</i>
	Liase with MAHLE to ensure Standard Operating Procedures for monitoring of animals and animal products entering at the ports are routinely implemented	Health Disaster Coordinator	P.S. MAHLE, Director of Agriculture, P S Health, PEHO	Report on progress of implementation submitted to NIPPPC at the end of each quarter <i>INCOMPLETE</i>

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<b>Public Health Measures</b> (Non-pharmaceutical)	Review Ministry of Health’s infection control guidelines & ensure relevant staff are trained/retrained	Chairperson Investigation & Treatment Sub-committee	Investigation & Treatment Sub-committee	Guidelines reviewed & included in Investigation Operational Plan Training report on file including list of participants <i>- Training ongoing at intervals</i>
	Calculate amount of protective personnel equipment (PPE) needed - for outbreak investigations - for use on the wards Identify sources for procurement of supplies	Chairperson Investigation & Treatment Sub-committee	PAHO, Investigation & Treatment Sub-committee	Required PPE included in Operational Plan <i>Ongoing</i>
	Identify and create a register of high risk groups	Chairperson Investigation & Treatment Sub-committee	Investigation & Treatment Sub-committee, <i>Epidemiologist</i>	Register included in Investigation Operational Plan <i>- Register on file</i>
	Educate/sensitise the public regarding actions to be taken on discovering dead birds	Chairperson Animal Health Sub-committee	MAHLE, Investigation & Treatment Sub-committee	Communications Strategy Implemented
	Educate the public on measures to protect themselves against infection	Chairperson Population Containment Sub-committee	Population Containment Sub-committee, Health Promotion	Communications Strategy Implemented – <i>Ongoing</i>
	Ensure that legal framework exists to address issues of population containment	Chairperson Population Containment Sub-committee	Population Containment Sub-committee, Legal Department, P S Health	Advice submitted to NIPPPC by staff of the Legal Department regarding the application of the existing law to suggested social distancing measures - <i>Pending</i>

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<b>Public Health Measures</b> (Pharmaceutical)	Discuss and make recommendations regarding the use of seasonal influenza vaccine (develop protocol if necessary)	Chairperson Investigation & Treatment Sub-committee	Investigation & Treatment Sub-committee, <i>EPI Manager</i>	Recommendations included in Investigation & Treatment Operational Plan – <i>NA</i>
	Develop strategy/protocol for use of pandemic vaccine (when available)	Chairperson Investigation & Treatment Sub-committee	Investigation & Treatment Sub-committee, <i>Senior Pharmacist, Private Pharmacist &amp; Physicians</i>	Strategy included in Investigation & Treatment Operational Plan - <i>NA</i>
	Develop a plan for procuring antiviral therapy	NIPPPC	PAHO, Senior Pharmacist, P S Health, A.S Finance & Systems	Procurement Plan appended to Investigation & Treatment Operational Plan - <i>Complete</i>
	Develop a CLEAR, DOCUMENTED protocol for prescribing antiviral therapy - who should receive and when - include a security plan for stocks	Chairman Investigation & Treatment Sub-committee	Minister of Health, PS Health, , <i>Senior Pharmacist, Private Pharmacist &amp; Physicians</i>	Protocol included in the Investigation & Treatment Operational Plan – <i>Pending (draft available)</i>

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<b>Health Systems Response</b>	Review WHO recommended protocol for investigation & diagnosis of suspected cases of influenza - adopt all applicable recommendations -make available to all relevant staff	Chairman Investigation & Treatment Sub-committee	PAHO Guidelines, Investigation & Treatment Sub-committee	Adopted protocol included in Investigation & Treatment Operational Plan - <i>Complete</i>
	Review WHO recommended guidelines for the management of influenza patients - adopt all applicable recommendations - make available to all relevant staff	Chairman Investigation & Treatment Sub-committee	Investigation & Treatment Sub-committee, <i>CMO Facilities manager</i>	Adopted guidelines included in Investigation & Treatment Operational Plan - <i>Complete</i>
	Identify physical infrastructure for isolating and treating suspected/confirmed cases	Health Services Continuity Sub-committee Chairperson	Health Services Continuity Sub-committee, Investigation & Treatment Sub-committee, <i>Minister of Health, CMO, PS Health</i>	Recommendations included in Health Services Continuity Operational Plan - <i>Complete</i>
	Develop guidelines for the prioritisation of health services in the event of a pandemic - develop a register of persons essential to the running of health services - establish which physical facilities will be used for what activity in the event of a pandemic	Health Services Continuity Sub-committee Chairperson	Health Services Continuity Sub-committee, Investigation & Treatment Sub-committee, <i>DMCA</i>	Guidelines included in Health Services Continuity Operational Plan - <i>Priority list complete</i>
	Identify approved volunteers for help with non-technical health tasks during a pandemic	Health Services Continuity Sub-committee Chairperson	Health services sub-committee, <i>NGOs</i>	Approved volunteers appended to Health Services Continuity Operational Plan - <i>Complete</i>

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<b>Communication</b>	Identify and train focal person to be responsible for the dissemination of information to the media, public, and other stakeholders. - Ensure personnel benefit from PAHO sponsored training	Permanent Secretary/CMO	PAHO, DMCA	Communication Focal Person identified and trained - <i>Member of staff benefiting from on-going training</i>
	Establish national risk communication strategy for pandemic influenza - Ensure Pandemic communication strategy fits into existing DMCA communication strategy	Health Disaster Coordinator	NIPPPC, DMCA, Communication Sub committee	Communication Strategy included in Operational Plan – <i>Pending</i>
	Include avian influenza and pandemic influenza information in the health promotion awareness programmes in the media – immediately following launch of NIPPPC	Health Disaster Coordinator	NIPPPC, DMCA, Communication Sub-committee	Completed Communication Strategy by December 31, 2007- <i>Draft complete</i>
	Develop alert cards for use at port of entry providing signs and symptoms of influenza and actions to be taken	Population Containment & Communication Sub-committee	NIPPPC	Cards prepared and ready for distribution – <i>Drafts complete</i>
	Develop a communication plan for use between sectors	Health Disaster Coordinator	NIPPPC, Communication Sub-committee	Completed Communication Strategy by December 31, 2007 – <i>Draft strategy Available</i>

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**Phases 4 & 5. Pre pandemic:** Small cluster(s) with limited human-to-human spread but spread is highly localised suggesting that the virus is not well adapted to humans. Large clusters but human-to-human spread still localised, suggesting that the virus is becoming increasingly adaptive to humans, but may not be fully transmissible.

Functional Area	Activity	Person/Agency Responsible	Supporting Personnel/Resources	Means of Verification/Status
<b>Planning Coordination &amp; Command</b>	Audit state of preparedness of operational plans (including animal health) - address outstanding issues	NIPPPC Chairperson	NIPPPC, Sub-committee members	Frequent Reports submitted to Hon. Minister of Health & PS Health. Documented feedback provided to Sub-committees - <i>Ongoing</i>
<b>Situation Monitoring &amp; Surveillance</b>	<b>Montserrat not affected:</b> Continue to strengthen surveillance linkages locally and regionally  Commence the surveillance of relevant products and persons coming from affected countries  Continue enhanced surveillance of acute respiratory infections  Ensure personnel protective equipment (PPE) available on island  Review protocols/training of outbreak response team(s)  Initiate the use of alert cards at ports of entry	Epidemiologist  Chairperson Population Containment Sub-committee  Epidemiologist  Chairperson Investigation & Treatment Sub-committee  Epidemiologist  Chairperson of Population Containment	Surveillance Staff of MHCS, CAREC staff  Population Containment Sub-committee  Surveillance staff of MHCS  Chairperson NIPPPC  Outbreak Response Team, PAHO personnel  NIPPPC, Airport & Port Authority Staff	Increases in cases of flu-like illnesses efficiently identified and investigated - <i>Ongoing</i>  Quarterly Report - NA  Quarterly Surveillance Reports – <i>Stepped up to weekly/daily review</i>  Records of available PPE - <i>Ongoing</i>  Review/Training Report documenting training & trainees - NA  Alert cards distributed and travellers being monitored - <i>Commenced April 28, 2009</i>



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Functional Area	Activity	Person/Agency Responsible	Supporting Personnel/Resources	Means of Verification/Status
<b>Public Health Measures</b>	<p><b>Montserrat not affected:</b> Ensure legal situation regarding isolation and quarantine finalised</p> <p>-</p>	Chairperson Population Containment Sub-committee	Population Containment Sub-committee, Legal Department	Guidelines for isolation and quarantine included in Operational Plan - <i>Pending</i>
<b>Health Systems Response</b>	<p>Review case identification and management protocols</p> <p>Ensure adequate PPE available on island</p> <p>Review contingency plans</p>	<p>Chairman Investigation and Treatment Sub-committee</p> <p>Chairman Investigation and Treatment Sub-committee</p> <p>Chairperson Health Services Continuity Sub-committee</p>	<p>Investigation and Treatment Sub-committee</p> <p>Investigation and Treatment Sub-committee, Epidemiologist</p> <p>Health Services Continuity Sub-committee</p>	<p>Reports of review and agreed protocols included in Operational Plan – <i>Completed April 29, 2009</i></p> <p>PPE Stock documented in Operational Plan/ Quarterly Stock Reports - <i>Ongoing</i></p> <p><i>Ongoing</i></p>
<b>Communication</b>	<p>Step-up dissemination of pandemic information via all available media</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continue to educate/sensitise the public re the actions to be taken on discovering dead birds</li> <li>- good personal hygiene practices</li> <li>- stress that prevention is our best option</li> </ul>	Chairperson of Communication Sub-committee	NIPPPC, Communication Sub-committee, Animal Health Sub-committee	Communication Strategy Implemented/ Public Information Messages being disseminated – <i>Ongoing, commenced April 28, 2009</i>

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Functional Area	Activity	Person/Agency Responsible	Supporting Personnel/Resources	Means of Verification/Status
<b>Situation Monitoring &amp; Surveillance</b>	<b>Montserrat affected:</b> Response team investigates all suspected cases within 12 hours of notification and record epidemiological profile, symptoms	NIPPPC	Outbreak Investigation Team,	Case Reports/ Outbreak Investigations Reports on file
	Samples sent to Reference Laboratory as per approved protocol	NIPPPC	Outbreak Investigation Team, Laboratory Staff	Reports documenting samples sent and results
<b>Public Health Measures</b>	Containment measures implemented where applicable - social distancing - isolation, quarantine, crowd control	NIPPPC	Population Containment Sub-committee	Operational Plans implemented as necessary
	Institute social distancing, isolation and quarantine measures	NIPPPC	Population Containment Sub-committee	Operational Plans implemented as necessary
	Implement agreed protocol for prophylactic anti viral therapy	NIPPPC	Population Containment Sub-committee	Operational Plans implemented as necessary
	Monitor and evaluate current public health measures, adapt as necessary	NIPPPC	Population Containment Sub-committee	Operational Plans implemented as necessary

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Functional Area	Activity	Person/Agency Responsible	Supporting Personnel/Resources	Means of Verification
<b>Health Services Continuity</b>	Standard operating procedures for patient management put in place at designated care facilities	NIPPPC	Basic Services Continuity Sub-committee,	Patient Management protocol implemented as necessary
<b>Communication</b>	Regularly updated information released to the public	NIPPPC	Communication Sub-committee, DMCA	Documented Press releases as per previously agreed strategy

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**Phase 6. Pandemic Period :** Increased and sustained transmission in the general population in affected countries.

Main Functional Area	Action	Person/Agency Responsible	Supporting Personnel/Resources	Means of Verification
<b>Management</b>	<p><b>Montserrat not affected</b>                      Audit state of preparedness of all Operational Plans                      - address any outstanding issues</p>	NIPPPC	All Sub-committees & other stakeholders	Report on state of preparedness submitted to Hon. Minister of Health & PS Health
<b>Management</b>	<p><b>Montserrat affected:</b>                      Prioritise essential health services                      - utilise designated treatment areas                      - institute agreed management protocol</p> <p>Activate all operational plans                      - institute quarantine measure                      - institute social distancing measures                      - institute investigation protocols                      - institute management protocols                      - initiate use of antivirals as planned                      - activate communication strategy</p> <p>Monitor and evaluate health response                      - adjust activities as needed                      - liaise with regional partners for advice and recommendations</p> <p>Refer matters to Executive Council as necessary</p>	<p>NIPPPC</p> <p>NIPPPC</p> <p>NIPPPC</p> <p>NIPPPC</p> <p>NIPPPC Chairperson/ Director DMCA</p>	<p>DMCA, All Sub-committees &amp; other stakeholders</p> <p>DMCA, All Sub-committees &amp; other stakeholders</p> <p>DMCA, All Sub-committees</p> <p>PS Health,</p>	<p>Feedback from health staff and Basic Services Continuity Sub-committee members</p> <p>Feedback from staff and Sub-committee members</p> <p>Implementation Reports submitted to Hon. Minister of Health &amp; PS Health</p> <p>Relevant Executive Council documents submitted</p>