

# **Ontario Health Plan for an Influenza Pandemic**

# Context for Influenza Pandemic Planning

- Activities correspond to World Health Organization pandemic phases (Inter-pandemic, Pandemic Alert and Pandemic)
- Aligned with direction in Canadian Pandemic Influenza Plan
- Will be reviewed against soon-to-be-released updated Canadian plan
- Provides detail on federal, provincial and local roles/responsibilities and commitments
- Identifies expectations re. local planning activities
- Outlines health emergency management approach (e.g. use of Incident Management System, role of Provincial Infectious Disease Advisory Committee and coordination with EMO/other levels of government)
- Ethical framework for decision-making underscores approach
- “Evergreen” document that will continue to be improved with emerging clinical, epidemiological, and operational information

# Roles and Responsibilities

- Federal Government
  - Vaccine/antiviral procurement and supply to provinces/territories
  - International liaison with World Health Organization (WHO) and other national agencies (e.g. US Centers for Disease Control)
  - Focus on coordination and consistency across the country
- Provincial Government
  - Establishment of provincial contingency plan aligned with Canadian Plan in consultation with Ontario's health stakeholders
  - Provide overall direction and advice on local preparedness and response activities for pandemic influenza (no direct statutory authority to require compliance)
  - OHPIP reflects health response; other sectors/ministries need own annexes
- Local Government
  - Led by local public health units, establish local pandemic influenza contingency plans congruent with the provincial influenza pandemic plan
  - Provide input, advice and required surveillance data to provincial health authorities

# Planning for OHPIP 2006

- 2004 OHPIP: context setting; roles and responsibilities
- 2005 OHPIP: operational/institutional direction; re-organized and streamlined
- 2006 OHPIP: community response; enhancements to other sections and alignment with new national plan

# OHPIP Overview

## Goals:

- Minimize serious illness and overall deaths
- Minimize societal disruption in Ontario

## Strategic Approach:

- Be ready –comprehensive contingency plans
- Be watchful –active screening and monitoring
- Be decisive – act quickly and effectively
- Be transparent – communicate

# Surveillance

- Ongoing surveillance within health sector for influenza-like illnesses (ILI)
- In a pandemic:
  - Goal: Early identification of pandemic strain in Ontario
  - Broaden surveillance activities to include day cares, other institutional settings—including schools—in the pre-pandemic/pandemic period

# Vaccines and Antivirals

- Antivirals
  - Limitations on production and supply
  - Primary focus: treat those who are hospitalized with influenza
  - Difficult decisions will be required
- Vaccine
  - Cannot be prepared in advance of specific virus identification
  - Domestic supplier
  - Available for second wave

# Public Health Measures

- Measures focused on the individual
  - Personal protective equipment
  - Healthy living
  - Staying home when ill
- Measures focused on the community
  - Social distancing: one metre
  - Constraining public gatherings
  - Closing day care centres, schools
  - Emergency mass vaccination/prophylaxis plan
- Public health measures being further studied to assess those most likely to have positive outcomes



# Health Services

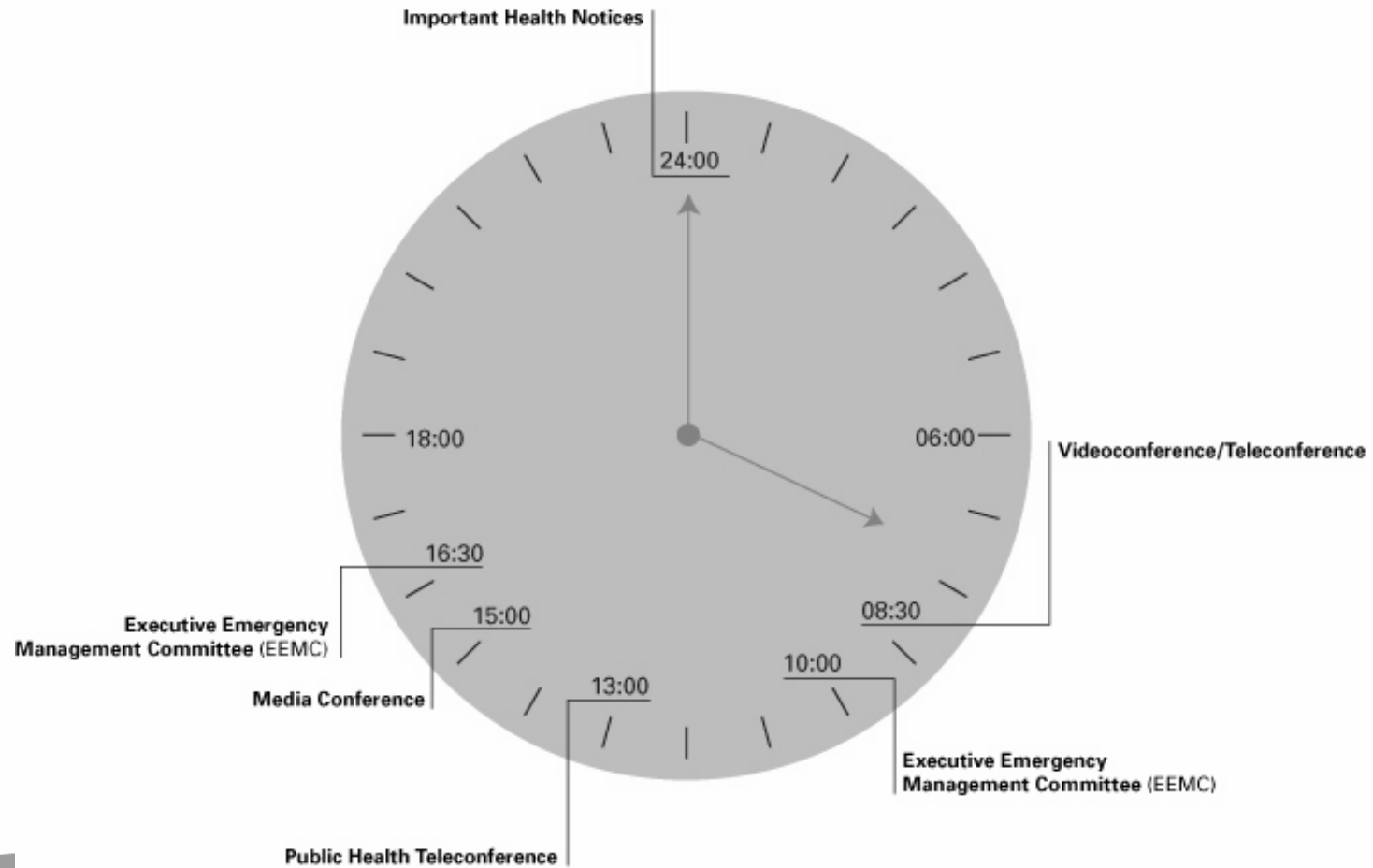
- Occupational health and safety, including personal protective equipment
  - Surgical masks
- Stockpiling of supplies: 4 weeks at local level and 4 weeks in provincial stockpile so as to cover first wave
- Curtailment of programs and services including public health, laboratories and hospitals
- Shortage of health care workers
- Alternate care sites may be considered; alternate screening centres

# Communications

- Public and sectoral communication and information sharing
  - Over 2.5 million brochures to be printed and distributed within Ontario
- Personal Protection Kits for physicians and primary care providers
- Website refresh
  - Public
  - Healthcare Providers
  - Employer
- Information Cycle
- Fact Sheets

# Information Cycle

## Information Cycle



# Other Initiatives

- Development of *A Guide to Influenza Preparedness and Response in Long-Term Care Homes*
- Development of two page “action plan” for circulation to primary care providers
- Identification of antibiotics for use in secondary infections for government stockpile
- Infection control campaign: health care workers and public
- Faith group outreach
- Role of health care students in a health emergency

# Contacts:

## Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care website:

<http://www.health.gov.on.ca>

## Emergency Management Unit website:

[http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/public/program/emu/emu\\_mn.html](http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/public/program/emu/emu_mn.html)

## OHPIP online:

[http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/emu/pan\\_flu/pan\\_flu\\_plan.html](http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/emu/pan_flu/pan_flu_plan.html)

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