



Pandemic Plan for the Church

Ministering to the Community in a Time of Crisis

Glossary of Terms

1918 Influenza Pandemic – An influenza pandemic that killed 50-100 million people worldwide.

Antibody – a blood protein produced in response to counteracting a specific antigen.

Antibody Testing – a test that checks your blood for antibodies which can show if you had a past infection with an antigen such as the virus that causes COVID-19

Antigenic Drift - small changes in the virus that happen continually over time.

Antigenic Shift - A significant change in the influenza virus resulting in new hemagglutinin and/or new hemagglutinin and neuraminidase proteins. Antigenic shift results in a whole new influenza A subtype.

Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS) – A rapidly progressive disease occurring in critically ill patients. The main complication is that fluid leaks into the lungs making breathing difficult or impossible.

Airborne Transmission – refers to situations where droplet nuclei (residue from evaporated droplets) or dust particles containing microorganisms can remain suspended in the air for long periods of time.

Asymptomatic Transmission – refers to transmission of the virus from a person who does not (or has not) develop(ed) symptoms.

Avian Influenza – A Type A virus also known as bird flu, naturally occurs in wild aquatic/migratory birds worldwide. Although it normally affects wild birds, domestic poultry can become infected along with other birds and animal species.

Capsid - Protein shell that encapsulates the nucleic acid which consists of the genetic RNA substance.

Centers for Diseases and Control (CDC) – the leading national public health institute of the United States. It is a United States federal agency under the Department of Health and Human Services and is headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia.

Community Spread – means people have been infected with the virus in an area including some who are not sure how or where they became infected.

Comorbidity – The simultaneous presence of two chronic diseases or conditions in a patient

Contact Tracing – systematic identification and monitoring of all persons who might have been exposed to a person diagnosed with COVID-19.

Coronavirus – common human virus that causes mild to moderate upper-respiratory tract illnesses, like the common cold.

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COVID-19 – A novel coronavirus that not the same as coronaviruses that commonly circulate among humans. This strain of virus first identified in Wuhan, Hubei, China is causing a global public health emergency.

Cytokine Storm – Exaggerated response of cytokines which results in acute respiratory distress.

Cytokines – Messengers in the body that regulate innate immunity that are produced primarily in response to pathogens; promote and control inflammation.

Direct Contact Transmission – required physical contact between an infected person and a susceptible person and the physical transfer of microorganisms.

Disinfect – to clean something, especially with a chemical in order to eliminate or reduce harmful bacteria microorganisms.

DNA – Deoxyribonucleic acid

Droplet Contact Transmission – transfer of a disease by infected droplets contacting surfaces of the eye, nose, or mouth. Droplets can be generated when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks.

Epidemic – A widespread occurrence of an infectious disease in a community at a particular time.

FEMA – Federal Emergency Management Agency

Genetic Reassortment - Influenza viruses, including subtypes from different species, can swap or reassort genetic materials and merge. Results in a new subtype different from both parent viruses.

Genome – the genetic material of an organism. It consists of DNA or RNA.

Government Mitigation – Strategies the government will put in place to stay reduce the potential spread of the disease.

H5N1 – A subtype of influenza A virus that causes a highly infectious, severe respiratory disease in birds

Hemagglutinin - Protein that is responsible for the virus attaching itself with the receptors of sialic acid on the surface of upper respiratory cells

Incubation Period – The time between exposure to the virus (becoming infected) and symptom onset. The average period for COVID-19 is 5-6 days, however can be 14 days.

Indirect Disease Transmission - situations where a susceptible person is infected from contact with a contaminated surface.

Isolation – Restriction of the movement of ill people to help stop the spread of certain diseases

Limited Human-to-Human Transmission – When a virus dies out after infecting a person or a few people in clusters of people who are in close contact with each other, such as in a family or work setting. The H5N1 Influenza and MERS viruses are considered limited.

MERS – Middle Eastern Respiratory Syndrome. Caused by a beta coronavirus called MERS-CoV.

Mitigation - the effort to reduce loss of life and property by lessening the impact of disasters. Mitigation is taking action —before the disaster—to reduce human and financial consequences later (analyzing risk, reducing risk, insuring against risk).

Mutation - the changing of the structure of a gene, resulting in a variant form that may be transmitted to subsequent generations, caused by the alteration of single base units in DNA or RNA or the deletion, insertion, or rearrangement of larger sections of genes or chromosomes.

N95 Respirator – a NIOSH approved mask that forms a seal against the user’s face, preventing particle penetration around the edges. It filters out at least 95% of airborne particles including large and small particles.

Neuraminidase – Enables the virus to be released from the host cell.

Novel corona virus – a new coronavirus that has not been previously identified.

Non-pharmaceutical intervention (NPI) – Actions, apart from getting vaccinated and taking medicine, that people and communities can take to help slow the spread of illnesses.

Orthocoronavirinae – The family of viruses that coronaviridae constitute as a subfamily.

Personal protective equipment (PPE) – equipment worn to minimize exposure to hazards that cause workplace illness and injuries.

Quarantine – The separation and restriction of the movement of well people who may have been exposed to a communicable disease to see if they become ill.

RNA Viruses – A virus that has ribonucleic acid as its genetic material. It is usually single-stranded.

Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) – a viral respiratory disease caused by the SARS coronavirus (SARS-CoV). An outbreak in 2002 and 2003 caused 8,098 cases and 774 deaths.

Spanish Flu – Another name for the 1918 Influenza due to erroneous belief that it originated in Spain.

Sterilize – process of killing all bacteria or other living microorganisms.

Super Spreader - A highly infectious person who spreads the agent of an infectious disease to many other people. The historic prototype of the super spreader was Typhoid Mary.

Surgical Mask – sometimes called a medical mask. It is worn to protect the people from the wearer’s respiratory emissions.

Transmission – The mode in which a virus is able to transmit from person to person.

Pandemic – a disease prevalent throughout an entire country, or the world.

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Pandemic Alert Phases – Six phases used by the WHO for easy incorporation of new recommendations and approaches into existing national preparedness and response plans.

Pandemic Severity Index (PSI) – A tool used to estimate the severity of a pandemic and to allow better forecasting of its impact.

Pathophysiology – the study of a disease process

Replication - The mechanics involved in a virus taking over the metabolic machinery of the host cell to reproduce itself.

RNA – Ribonucleic acid

Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) – global outbreak that occurred in 2003.

Seasonal Influenza – Influenza A virus that infects humans.

Social Distancing – Modifications made in the community to reduce contact between adults in the community and the workplace.

Sustained Human-to-Human Transmission – Transmitting easily from one person to the next and further onward – in the way the flu or other established human viruses work.

Vaccine – a biological preparation that provides active acquired immunity to a particular disease.

Virus – Viruses are small entities consisting of one or more molecules of either DNA or RNA enclosed in a coat of protein. Viruses are not considered to be alive.

Virus Peak – the peak of an epidemic curve is the day with the most cases per day.

Wet Market - A complex of stalls selling fish, meat and wild animals. One such market in Wuhan, China has been linked to the current outbreak of COVID-19

World Health Organization (WHO) – Primary role is to direct international health within the United Nation’s system and lead partners in global health responses.

Zoonotic Disease - Pertaining to a zoonosis: a disease that can be transmitted from animals to people or, more specifically, a disease that normally exists in animals but that can infect humans.