

How Does Seasonal Flu Differ From Pandemic Flu?

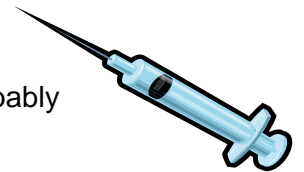
Seasonal Flu

- Flu outbreaks follow predictable seasonal patterns in the United States; it occurs annually usually in winter.
- Healthy adults are usually not at risk for serious complications. Children, the elderly and those with certain health problems are at higher risk for serious complications
- Health care providers and hospitals can meet public and patient healthcare needs
- Vaccine is developed based on known flu strains and is available for the annual flu season
- Often effective antivirals are available.
- Average U.S. deaths are approximately 36,000/year
- Symptoms: fever, cough, runny nose, muscle ache and fatigue. Deaths can occur due to complications, such as pneumonia.
- Generally causes modest impact on society (those sick should stay home from work or school)



Pandemic Flu

- Occurs rarely (three times in 20th century – 1918, 1957, 1968)
- People have no immunity due to no previous exposure
- Healthy people may be at increased risk for serious complications
- Health care providers and hospitals may be overwhelmed
- Vaccine would not be available in the early stages of a pandemic
- Effective antivirals will probably be in limited supply
- The number of deaths could be quite high (e.g. U.S. 1918 death toll was approximately 675,000)
- Symptoms may be more severe and complications more frequent
- May cause major impact on society (e.g. widespread restrictions on travel, closings of schools and businesses, cancellation of large public gatherings)
- Potential for severe impact on domestic and world economy



- Manageable impact on domestic and world economy

Allegany County Health Department
12501-03 Willowbrook Road
Cumberland, MD 21501
301-759-5000
www.alleganyhealthdept.com



Center for Disease
Control and Prevention
1-888-422-8737
www.pandemicflu.gov
www.cdc.gov