



Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr.
Governor

Judith A. Monroe, M.D.
State Health Commissioner

Indiana State
Department of Health
An Equal Opportunity Employer

Pandemic Influenza Q & A for Children

Q: What is a flu pandemic?

A: A pandemic happens when people all over the world get sick from a new germ.

Q: How is a flu pandemic different from a normal flu outbreak?

A: Regular flu happens every winter, but not everyone becomes ill. A flu pandemic can happen any time of year, more people get ill, and some people will get very ill and could even die.

Q: When will the next flu pandemic occur?

A: That is not known. It could happen anytime—this year, next year, or maybe in the future.

Q: How can a flu pandemic be avoided?

A: We can make plans ahead of time to prepare for a pandemic since we cannot stop it from coming.

Q: Are we prepared for a flu pandemic?

A: Many doctors and scientists all over the world have been working very hard to make sure they are ready if a pandemic begins.

Q: Could people in Indiana die in a flu pandemic?

A: Yes, some people may die, but most people will not.

Q: Is there a pandemic vaccine like there is for regular flu?

A: Not now. But scientists are working hard to make a vaccine.

Q: Are there special medicines for a pandemic?

A: There are some medicines that can help you feel better.

Q: Are there enough medicines and hospital rooms for people who would get sick?

A: Many doctors, nurses, and paramedics are busy making plans so they are ready to take care of people who get sick.

Q: What can I do to protect myself?

A: If you do get sick, you can help by coughing and sneezing into tissues, throwing them away and then always washing your hands. Your parents may also want you to stay home from school, even if you are not sick, to help stop the disease from spreading to your family.