

# Pandemic Influenza Plan for U.S. Foodservice



On April 26, 2009, the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) declared a nationwide public health emergency under Section 319 of the Public Health Service Act as a response to human infections in the U.S. with the newly discovered H1N1 (swine) influenza A virus. The formal declaration activates HHS' preparation and mobilization for disasters and emergencies.

U.S. Foodservice Inc. (USF) is committed to the health and safety of our employees and the well-being of our customers. We understand that in the event of a pandemic of influenza, planning is critical. To that end, we developed a pandemic influenza plan several years ago and incorporated the preparedness responsibilities into the annual evaluations of each of our divisions in order to keep the plan current. Therefore, following the HHS declaration of a public health emergency, we activated our response team and implemented our plan for the execution of prevention and mitigation activities.

Below is a summary of the stages USF will go through to ensure we are prepared to act as the national outbreak of H1N1 influenza unfolds. The steps outlined below are based on current recommendations by the Food & Drug Administration, Centers for Disease Control and the World Health Organization, and can be modified as the situation develops.

We are sharing this summary with our customers in an effort to help coordinate activities and facilitate their own pandemic planning. While we can't predict if the outbreak will turn into a pandemic, USF takes the threat seriously. As the public health motto says: "We hope for the best, but prepare for the worst."

## H1N1 Outbreak and Pandemic Stages for U.S. Foodservice

### Stage 1: Yellow

#### Communication/Planning Stage

**Trigger:** Public health outbreak likely to become pandemic is established, and/or declaration of public health emergency by government agency, and/or World Health Organization (WHO) declares phase 4 - Alert evidence of increased human-to-human transmission.

**Actions:**

- Distribute previously-assigned tasks for each stage to all functional areas including Leadership, Communications, Human Resources, Food Safety & Quality Assurance, Procurement, Operations, Legal, Sales, Risk Management, IT and Logistics.
- Communicate preventive measures with employees and customers.
- Establish line of communications with suppliers.
- Monitor developments.

### Stage 2: Orange

#### Logistical Stage

**Trigger:** Public health threat becomes widespread, and/or public health agencies begin implementation of measures to reduce transmission of illness at local venues, and/or WHO declares phase 5 - Evidence of significant human-to-human transmission.

**Actions:**

- Position emergency equipment and tools in strategic locations.
- Increase communication and implement preventive and defensive measures with employees.
- Coordinate response with customers.
- Reach out to government health agencies at federal, state and local levels, and industry organizations to establish/maintain lines of communications.
- Monitor developments as appropriate.

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## Stage 3: Red

### Action Stage

**Trigger:** Public health agencies declare pandemic in certain areas, and/or WHO declares phase 6 - Efficient and sustained human-to-human transmission is declared, and/or government agencies issue specific guidance.

**Actions:**

- Activate additional measures and provide tools in areas where pandemic is active.
- Implement prioritization plans for deliveries in impacted areas including Disaster Recovery Communications Plan.
- Deliver internal and external communications as appropriate.
- Follow government agencies/public health direction and coordinate communications.
- Keep customers updated of developments as appropriate.
- Monitor developments as appropriate.

## Stage 4: Blue

### Recovery/Planning Stage

**Trigger:** Public health agencies declare pandemic is over in certain areas, and/or WHO declares phase 6 - Post-Peak/ Post-Pandemic recovery and planning for possible second spike.

**Actions:**

- Determine priority of recovery efforts by the severity of impact to specific function areas and assets.
- Assess plan's performance and update for possible second spike.
- Monitor developments as appropriate.