

## Pandemic Pandemonium

### ***Scenario:***

Your team is a group of infectious disease specialists from the Centers for Disease Control. Kathleen Sibelius, Secretary of Health and Human Services, has called your team of infectious disease experts to Washington, D.C. to brief her and her staff on the spread of pandemics so that they may better formulate national policy in dealing with diseases like the H1N1 flu. She has asked that you make a multimedia presentation about previous pandemics in history, how they spread and their effects on population and culture. She is particularly interested in lessons that can be learned from these pandemics.

### ***Possible topics to cover (these are only suggestions and are not a requirement for a superior presentation):***

1. What is a pandemic?
2. How does a disease turn into a pandemic?
3. Describe some famous pandemics.
4. What lessons have been learned from previous pandemics?
5. Describe some diseases that have the potential to become catastrophic pandemics along with how these diseases are currently being kept local.
6. What problems do doctors, scientists and government policy makers encounter in preventing the spread of disease?
7. How has fear played a role in how the public has reacted to current and previous pandemic threats?
8. How has the timeline for the spread of diseases changed in recent times?
9. What was the reaction of the World Health Organization to the H1N1 flu?
10. What steps can the World Health Organization take when a potential disease is discovered that might become pandemic?

### ***Possible Sources***

Newspapers, historians, teachers, public health organizations, medical experts, videos, CD's, encyclopedias, history textbooks and Internet websites.

Email or interview experts with questions about the topic.

Internet links for additional resources are on page 2 of this scenario.

### ***Bibliography***

Be sure to have a printed bibliography to hand to the judges before you begin your presentation. You are encouraged to cite all of your sources including graphics. A simple web tool to organize your bibliography can be found at <http://citationmachine.net/>.

## 2009 CyberQuest 8th Grade Resources

Swine Flu (H1N1)

**Medicine.Net:** [http://www.medicinenet.com/swine\\_flu/article.htm](http://www.medicinenet.com/swine_flu/article.htm)

H1N1 Questions & Answers; FAQ slide show

**Center for Disease Control:** <http://www.cdc.gov/H1n1flu/update.htm>

Maps and graphs showing influenza activity

**New York Times:** <http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2009/04/27/us/20090427-flu-update-graphic.html>

Map tracking swine flu cases

**Google Maps Mania blog:** <http://googlemapsmania.blogspot.com/2009/04/swine-flu-outbreak-on-google-maps.html>

Uses several features of Google Maps and Google Earth to track various swine flu; based on a doctor's work, but not necessarily authoritative; could be used as a model for students to develop their own maps using Google Maps and Google Earth.

**Wikipedia:** [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2009\\_flu\\_pandemic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2009_flu_pandemic)

Overview of the Swine Flu Pandemic

1918 Flu Pandemic

**Center for Disease Control:** <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/eid/vol12no01/05-0979.htm>

An overview of the 1918 Influenza Pandemic

The "Spanish" influenza pandemic of 1918–1919, which caused ≈50 million deaths worldwide, remains an ominous warning to public health. Many questions about its origins, its unusual epidemiologic features, and the basis of its pathogenicity remain unanswered. The public health implications of the pandemic therefore remain in doubt even as we now grapple with the feared emergence of a pandemic caused by H5N1 or other virus. However, new information about the 1918 virus is emerging, for example, sequencing of the entire genome from archival autopsy tissues. But, the viral genome alone is unlikely to provide answers to some critical questions. Understanding the 1918 pandemic and its implications for future pandemics requires careful experimentation and in-depth historical analysis.

**Stanford University:** <http://virus.stanford.edu/uda/>

History of the pandemic

**Public Broadcasting System:** <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/influenza/>

Impact of the 1918 Influenza Pandemic in the United States; based on the PBS film, Influenza 1918; lots of resources.