

[INSERT YEAR] STATEWIDE MEDICAL AND HEALTH EXERCISE

# SCENARIO SUMMARY – [INFECTIOUS DISEASE]

**Please Read This First:** *This scenario is intended as a “95% solution,” with local planners customizing, changing, and finishing the scenario according to their objectives and the unique hazards exercised by your jurisdiction. This document is meant to be a tool that facilitates the exercise of the capabilities identified in the Statewide Medical and Health Exercise (SWMHE) Multi-Year Training and Exercise Plan (MYTEP), and the objectives identified each year. Local exercise planners* ***are not required*** *to use the scenario suggested here, but are strongly encouraged to ensure local exercise objectives are confirmed prior to customizing this document. All components of the scenario are optional.*

*Bracketed text (e.g., [your jurisdiction]) and/or text in gray highlight is provided to aid with location-specific customization. This scenario information will be reflected in the Situation Manual to prompt discussion questions based on the objectives, as well as in the Master Scenario Events List to prompt response among law enforcement, fire, public health, emergency medical services, healthcare, and other stakeholders. For the functional exercise, it is recommended that exercise planners leverage the Master Scenario Events List in addition to this document.*

## SCENARIO

***Instructions*: Insert your local facilities/agencies/organizations or locations in the gray, bolded, bracketed areas as appropriate. Use the Pre-Incident Information below to determine procedures and protocols leading up to your tabletop and/or functional exercise(s), such as public messaging and surveillance.**

**Customizing the Scenario with Additional Components**

* All jurisdictions should consider adding or revising the components of the scenario according to their objectives, participants, and most likely hazards. The following is a list of additional, optional components that your exercise planning team may consider adding:
  + Isolation and Quarantine protocols (including law enforcement)
  + Local Communicable Disease Plan policies and procedures
  + Local laboratory testing and reporting protocols
  + Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) recommendations and messaging to healthcare facilities
  + Medical Examiner/Coroner’s Office involvement and roles
  + Lessons learned and gaps identified from recent Ebola, Zika, and Hep A outbreaks
  + Patient and/or Facility Evacuations, if there is a need to test this function
  + Deployment of Behavioral Health staff as deemed appropriate

## PRE-INCIDENT INFORMATION

***[One Month Pre Exercise]***

* Several reports surface detailing a large number of cases of an influenza-like illness (ILI) in South America. The first reports come from Guyana, and within a week there are reports from Suriname and Brazil. It is unclear, at this time, whether the symptoms are indicative of a novel influenza strain, part of a particularly bad flu season, or something else.
* A 29-year-old female and her 33-year-old boyfriend present to **[a local walk-in clinic]** in **[your jurisdiction]**. Both patients report flu-like symptoms, including headaches, body aches, and fevers of over 101°F persisting for three days. The male reports a mild dry cough and shortness of breath. The couple is discharged the same day.
* In Brazil, the first fatality is reported of a 47-year old female who was admitted to the hospital with the symptoms, including high fever, headache, and pneumonia.
* The 33-year old male presents to **[a local emergency department (ED)]** two days after his visit to the walk-in clinic, reporting a worsening of symptoms, particularly his cough and shortness of breath. An x-ray is done revealing pneumonia. He is hospitalized overnight.

***[One Week Before Exercise]***

* More cases of the ILI are reported across South and Central America. Health officials have ruled out influenza and are beginning to test specimens for a variety of illnesses, including the SARS-associated coronavirus (SARS), and the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV). However, the specimens are instead identified as a novel virus.
* Brazilian health officials release a statement warning the public about the illness and reminding them to wash their hands frequently and cover their mouth and nose when they sneeze or cough.
* Multiple fatalities are reported across Brazil, Guyana, and Suriname.
* The local U.S. media are reporting widely on the “pandemic” sweeping South America, and there are concerns that the public in **[your jurisdiction]** may have concerns. **[Local Health Department]** begins crafting public messaging.
* The U.S. Department of State releases travel alerts for those traveling to and from Brazil, Guyana, and Suriname.
* In **[your jurisdiction],** hospitals and health clinics are reporting an uptick in the number of patients presenting with influenza-like illness (ILI). Long Term Care Facilities also are experience an increase in residents with ILI.
* **[Add any additional details relevant to your jurisdiction/agency/facility’s exercise]**

## EXERCISE INFORMATION

**[Week of Exercise]**

* A 41-year old man presents to **[local ED]** with a fever of 104°F, headache, and body aches. Considering the reports from South and Central America, the physician conducts an extensive travel history review with the patient. It is revealed that the patient just returned from a business trip to Brazil five days earlier. The man also reports that he volunteered at his child’s elementary school one day earlier, where he served a pancake breakfast to third-graders at the local school. He also recently visited his elderly mother at a nursing home.
* Later that day, an 8-year old girl is brought to **[a local hospital]** with a fever of 101°F and a mild cough. It is confirmed that the child is a student who was present at the pancake breakfast the male patient attended the day before.

**[Week of Exercise]**

* Four additional third graders are brought to **[local clinic, urgent care, or hospital]** reporting similar symptoms. One third grader, a 7-year old boy, was hospitalized at the ED with pneumonia. He is placed in a bed next to an 82-year old man with a hip replacement, from a local skilled nursing facility.
* The 41-year old man’s elderly mother along with two others from her nursing home (one, a dialysis patient) are now being treated at **[insert a local hospital]** for similar symptoms.
* Multiple staff members are reporting in sick at local clinics, hospitals, long term care, health departments, and other agencies across **[local jurisdiction]**.

**[Day before Exercise]**

* The 8-year old girl that presented at **[a local hospital]** on November 13 died. The media report on the fatality. Worried parents of other students at the elementary school where the pancake breakfast occurred are calling in to the local health department, and some are bringing their children to local healthcare facilities, even if they are not showing symptoms.
* The 41-year old man’s elderly mother also died, and the other two patients from her nursing home are in critical condition.
* In addition, there are multiple **[insert County, City, Agency, Facility]** employees reporting similar symptoms, and one employee died from illness. Multiple staff members are impacted.
* **[Add any additional details relevant to your jurisdiction/agency/facility’s exercise]**

**[Day of Exercise]**

* The County has established a health screening station at the elementary school to assist in evaluating students, faculty, or family members who may have contracted the illness. Behavioral health staff were asked to be present at the screening station to provide mental and emotional support to impacted individuals.
* A joint press conference is held at the elementary school’s health screening station to update the public and media on recent developments related to spread of the ILI, such as reported fatalities and guidance for staying healthy. Representatives from multiple agencies, including public health, mental health, and the healthcare sector, are participating in the press conference.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

* [Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (CCOHS): http://www.ccohs.ca/oshanswers/diseases/pandemic\_flu.html](http://www.ccohs.ca/oshanswers/diseases/pandemic_flu.html)
* [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Avian Flu: http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avianflu/](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avianflu/)
  + [CDC, Swine Flu: http://www.cdc.gov/flu/swineflu/variant.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/swineflu/variant.htm)
  + [CDC, Infuenza A Variant Virus Outbreaks: https://www.cdc.gov/flu/swineflu/h3n2v-situation.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/flu/swineflu/h3n2v-situation.htm)
  + [CDC, Pandemic vs Seasonal Flu: https://www.cdc.gov/flu/pandemic-resources/basics/about.html](https://www.cdc.gov/flu/pandemic-resources/basics/about.html)
* [IAFF Influenza Information: http://www.iaff.org/hs/Resi/PanFlu.asp](http://www.iaff.org/hs/Resi/PanFlu.asp)
* [National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID): http://www.niaid.nih.gov/topics/flu/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.niaid.nih.gov/topics/flu/Pages/default.aspx)
* [Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA): http://www.osha.gov/dsg/guidance/avian-flu.html](http://www.osha.gov/dsg/guidance/avian-flu.html) 
  + [OSHA, Pandemic Flu: https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/pandemicinfluenza/index.html](https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/pandemicinfluenza/index.html)
* [Proceedings of the National Academy of Science of the United States of America – Emerging Viral Diseases: http://www.pnas.org/content/97/23/12411.full](http://www.pnas.org/content/97/23/12411.full)
* World Health Organization:
  + [Pandemic Influenza Preparedness and Response: http://www.who.int/influenza/resources/documents/pandemic\_guidance\_04\_2009/en/](http://www.who.int/influenza/resources/documents/pandemic_guidance_04_2009/en/)
  + [Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Framework: http://www.who.int/influenza/resources/pip\_framework/en/](http://www.who.int/influenza/resources/pip_framework/en/)
* [World Journal of Virology – Emerging and Re-Emerging Viruses: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3782263/](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3782263/)

***Video Resources[[1]](#footnote-2)***

* [“Ebola: The Lessons Learned in Dallas.” 60 Minutes. Available at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yh8BNp3Rp44](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yh8BNp3Rp44)
* [“The H1N1 Flu: California’s Response.” California Department of Public Health. Available at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LYhowc5tbzw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LYhowc5tbzw)
* [“How Influenza Pandemics Occur.” NIAID. Available at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DdFCx8jbesQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DdFCx8jbesQ)
* [“How pandemics spread.” TED-Ed. Available at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UG8YbNbdaco](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UG8YbNbdaco)
* [“How this Ebola outbreak became the worst we’ve ever seen” Vox. Available at:](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HBG_zB_iiUc)

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* [“Public Health Response to Severe Influenza” CDC. Available at:](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=azcMZCCr7EU)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=azcMZCCr7EU>

* [“WHO: Influenza, an Unpredictable Threat” WHO. Available at:](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yhhJfT86Bgg)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yhhJfT86Bgg>

* [“Virus Crisis” National Geographic. Available at:](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=91b3MCAlYSI)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=91b3MCAlYSI>

1. . Please note that these links may no longer be active once these documents are released or downloaded. We cannot guarantee the availability of these videos. If a link does not work, we recommend searching for similar clips online using the key terms found in the video titles. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)