

On 10 August 2010, WHO declared that the world is no longer in phase 6 of influenza pandemic alert and that we are now in the post-pandemic period. In other words the H1N1 virus is now behaving as a seasonal influenza virus. Seasonal influenza viruses are an important cause of morbidity and mortality, especially in risk groups which include young children and pregnant women.

The post-pandemic period provides an opportunity to review responses and preparedness for the next pandemic. The threat from Influenza A(H5N1) virus remains as this virus continues to circulate in birds and is causing occasional human cases. In addition to recurring influenza pandemics that occur at unpredictable intervals, humanity is now at increased risk of other newly emerging infectious diseases because of global changes in both animal and human population densities and ecological changes. Therefore, UNICEF will continue to work with partners to support national preparedness to respond to disease outbreaks and other emergencies.

Communication to mobilize communities and to inform individuals of how to protect themselves from infections is a key aspect of any disease outbreak response. See the Influenza Communications Resources portal for guidance, tools, and creative materials for communication strategies for both human and avian influenza.

<http://www.unicef.org/flu/pandemic/index.html>

QUESTIONS: (Express your ideas)

- 1. What do you think are the reasons for the spread of Influenza A?**
- 2. Who are those people that are at risk to acquire Influenza A?**
- 3. How will you care for a person who has Influenza A?**
- 4. Do you think that a person who has Influenza A needs to be isolated? Why?**
- 5. How can you prevent the spread of this sickness in your community?**

6. What do you think is the best way to reduce the risk of acquiring Influenza A?