

# Pandemic Influenza Risk Levels

with World Health Organization Descriptions

Phase	Level	Definition	Description
<b>INTER-PANDEMIC PHASE</b> New virus in animals, no human cases	1	Low risk of human cases	No new influenza subtypes have been detected in humans. An influenza virus subtype that has caused human infection may be present in animals. The risk of human infection is considered to be low.
	2	Higher risk of human cases	No new influenza virus subtypes have been detected in humans. However, a circulating animal influenza virus subtype poses a substantial risk of human disease.
<b>PANDEMIC ALERT</b> New virus, causes human cases	3	No, or very limited human-to-human transmission	Human infection(s) with a new subtype are reported. There are no instances of human to human spread, or at most, rare instances of spread to a close contact.
	4	Evidence of increased human-to-human transmission	Small cluster(s), meaning less than 25 people, lasting less than two weeks, with limited human to human transmission occur, but spread is still highly localized, suggesting that the virus is not well adapted to humans.
	5	Evidence of significant human-to-human transmission	Larger cluster(s), meaning between 25-50 people, lasting from two or four weeks, appear. While human to human transmission is still localized, the virus appears to be increasingly better adapted to humans. Though it is not yet fully transmissible, there is a substantial pandemic risk.
<b>PANDEMIC</b>	6	Efficient and sustained human-to-human transmission	Virus transmission increases significantly, and there is sustained transmissibility in the general population.

Visit the World Health Organization (WHO) website at [www.who.int/en](http://www.who.int/en) for:

- [Pandemic Flu Risk Levels](#)

- [Cumulative Number of Confirmed Human Cases of Avian Influenza A/\(H5N1\) Reported to WHO](#)