

TTX

Pandemic Influenza Simulations

WHO – Preparedness Support Team



TTX Simulation Process

- Participatory approach involving participants
- Forum to discuss and develop planning assumptions, policies and response procedures in a safe simulated environment
- Time scale – 1 hours 30 minutes
- Table-top scenario guided by a series of targeted questions





TTX Simulation Objectives



- **Work successfully as part of a small team to achieve a collective result**
- **Apply the skills you have acquired over the past few days**
- **Raise your level of awareness of an influenza pandemic through the use of tools and techniques for risk communications**



TTX Ground Rules

Rules

- Not an individual test
- Respect the views of other
- Respond as you would in real life and allow others to do likewise
- Focus on solutions
- Do not question the scenarios

Roles and Responsibilities





The TTX Scenario

Time Period of 6 Weeks

Scenario one

Confusion, confirmation and containment

- ➔ Initial confused reports of respiratory illness.
- ➔ Government commences a containment operation.
- ➔ Confirmation of a novel highly pathogenic virus with human to human transmission.

Area Affected

Limited to local area

Scenario two

Virus spreads

- ➔ Containment operation fails to prevent a rapid spread of the virus.
- ➔ Commencement of border controls and travel restrictions.
- ➔ Disruption to many essential services

Area Affected

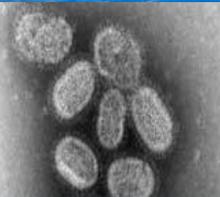
Spreads through the country

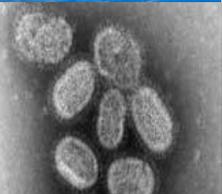
Pandemic

- ➔ Virus spreads throughout the country.
- ➔ Continuation of operations affected by lack of staff and disruption to public services.
- ➔ Increase in mortality rate.
- ➔ Humanitarian crisis.

Area Affected

Global pandemic with varying degrees of severity by region





EXERCISE

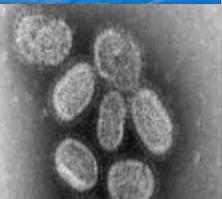


Scenario One

There are unconfirmed reports of an outbreak of severe, influenza-like illness in the town of Poltava approximately 240 kilometres south east of Kiev. Some of the people who have fallen ill have developed very serious symptoms, and at least three patients have died in the past 2 days.

A local news agency based in Poltava is running a front page article stating that a bus driver traveling the route between Poltava and Kiev reported that a woman with her children on the bus told him that "children were taking ill and dying" in the town. The woman was moving her children to stay with family in Kiev out of fear for their safety.

There are also rumours that staff of the main town hospital where several of the ill people have been sent for treatment are afraid, and some of them have refused to get into close contact with the patients. The outbreak appears to have developed quickly and infected a number of family members and friends in a matter of a few days. Three nurses are also rumoured to have developed symptoms.



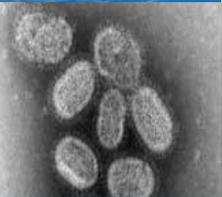


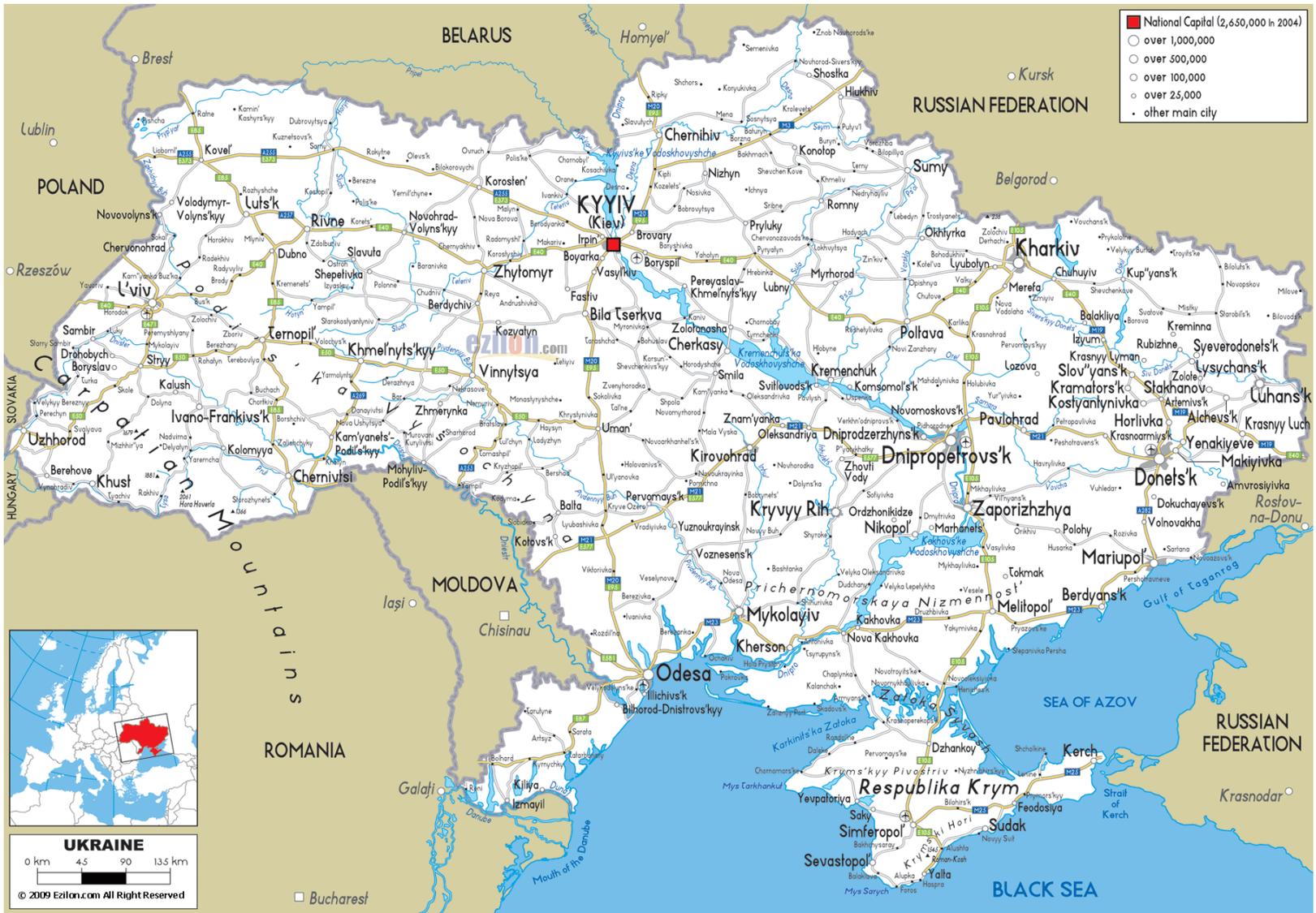
Scenario One

The Government in accordance with International Health Regulations is reporting a severe outbreak of influenza like virus in Poltava. Two young boys aged 6 and 8 and a woman of 22 have died (although the media are reporting that many people are ill, some seriously so). Specimens have been sent to the national laboratory for initial tests.

While the cases are being reported as severe acute respiratory infection (SARI), the KyivPost is quoting a local doctor from Poltava as saying that "It is not unusual to see a rise in cases of ARI, especially in children, during the long winter months. But this time it seems to be much more severe than in other years. "I do not remember having seen people becoming so ill so quickly. Some individuals had severe respiratory distress and needed to be urgently transferred to the main hospital."

Media interest throughout the country has been intense. Much of the reporting is based on alleged eyewitness accounts and includes reports of "many" deaths in relation to the outbreak. These reports have resulted in a heightened level of concern in the general public.





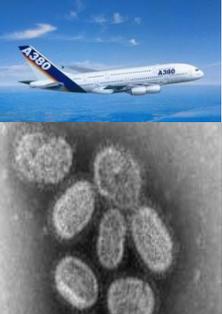


Group Tasks



Group one: Based on the scenario, outline the key factors you will consider in developing approaches to communicating in ethically and politically complex circumstances?

Group two: Based on the scenario, outline the key factors you will consider in developing a risk communication strategy?



Group three: Based on the scenario, describe the key approaches and products for external communications (media and general public)?

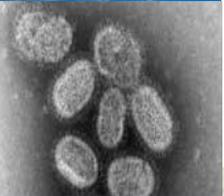


Scenario Two

Initial laboratory tests indicated that the illness is not the result of more common influenza viruses. Samples were sent to the regional CDC laboratory for further testing. A novel influenza virus was identified and confirmed to be an *H7* influenza sub-type at CDC-Atlanta. As a result, the Government has announced the commencement of a containment operation. Large numbers of military have been deployed to the containment zone in order to restrict all movement in and out of the area.

The Ministry of health is reporting that while conditions inside the containment zone are difficult, with more than 450 reported cases, those in need are receiving treatment and that the containment measures have prevented the spread of the virus. There are, however, a number of unconfirmed reports of similar influenza like cases in a number of towns to the north of the containment zone including in Kiev itself.

Rumours are spreading that a number of neighbouring countries are in the process of closing their borders in case the containment operation fails. Surveillance and screening measures are in place at most regional international airports and major border crossings.



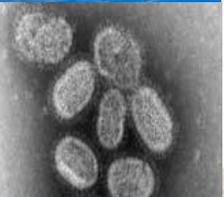


Scenario Two

A report from one popular national television channel highlights increasing cases of illness, there is a growing demand from the general public for a general distribution of anti-viral drugs and the commencement of a nation-wide vaccination campaign. There have also been rumors that Ukraine does not have access to sufficient quantities of critical pharmaceutical and non-pharmaceutical supplies. Media outlets are reporting pharmaceutical supplies maybe become limited and that prices for such commodities might rise.

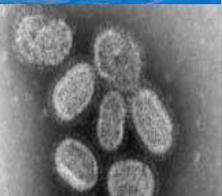
There is a rumour that the Government will announce that it may have to temporarily suspend schedule services due to air traffic control safety. The rumour has led to growing concern among business travellers and tourists who are cancelling their trips and attempting to return home. The situation at the main international airport deteriorated which led to intense pressure on international air travel to meet the increased demands.

Laboratory confirmation of cases in the Asia and the American contentment has led to WHO declaring the outbreak to be a Public Health Emergency of International concern.





Group Tasks



Group one: Based on the scenario, how can we work closely with local communities to limit the spread of the pandemic?

Group two: Based on the scenario, describe the key approaches and products for internal communications (within the organization)?

Group three: Based on the scenario, outline the key emergency risk communications obligations and expectations under international agreements?