

# Definitions

---

**Antigenic drift** - The gradual alteration by point mutations of the haemagglutinin (HA) and neuraminidase (NA) proteins within a type or subtype which results in the inability of antibodies to previous strains to neutralize the mutant virus. Antigenic drift occurs in both influenza A and B viruses and causes periodic epidemics.

**Antigenic shift** - The appearance in the human population of an influenza A virus containing a novel HA protein with or without a novel NA protein that are immunologically different from those of isolates circulating previously. Antigenic shift is responsible for worldwide pandemics.

**Antivirals** - Drugs used for the treatment, and in some instances prevention, of viral infections including those caused by influenza viruses. Two classes of antiviral drugs have been used for treatment and prevention of influenza: the neuraminidase inhibitors (Tamiflu® and Relenza®) and the adamantanes (amantadine and rimantadine).

**Avian Influenza** - All known avian flu viruses belong to the species of virus called influenza A virus. All subtypes of influenza A virus are adapted to birds, which is why for many purposes avian flu virus *is* the influenza A virus.

**Disease surveillance** - The systematic, continuing assessment of the health of a community, based on the collection, interpretation and use of health data. Surveillance provides information necessary for public health decision-making.

**Epidemiology** - The study of the distribution and determinants of health-related states or events in specified populations, and the application of this study to the control of health problems.

**Influenza epidemic** - An outbreak of influenza caused by influenza A or B viruses that have undergone antigenic drift. The terms “influenza epidemic” and “influenza outbreak” have the same meaning, and may occur locally or in many parts of the world during the same season.

**Influenza pandemic** - By convention, worldwide outbreaks of influenza caused by influenza A viruses that have undergone antigenic shift. However, as recently demonstrated, an antigenically novel virus of an existing subtype is capable of pandemic spread.

**Health Alert** - Notices provided by government and/or health-related organizations concerning relevant information related to the health and safety of the public. These may include notices of travel restrictions, information concerning sites of novel outbreaks around the world, notification of WHO phase shifts etc.

**Influenza Like Illness (ILI)** - ILI is defined as documented fever >100.4°F (38.0°C) **and** cough, sore throat or shortness of breath.

**Isolation** - The separation for the period of communicability of infected individuals from other individuals, in places and under conditions as will prevent the direct or indirect transmission of the infectious agent from infected individuals to other individuals who are susceptible or who may spread the agent to others. Isolation may be voluntary or enforced.

**Novel Influenza Virus** - Virus that has never been reported in the past to cause human illness or a virus that has not circulated in many years and therefore is novel to the human population and has inherent immune resistance.

**Points of Dispensing** - Predefined sites used for dispensing critical supplies to hospitals and people. These items might include those maintained as part of the SNS or vaccine distribution.

**Priority Groups** - Those groups identified to be in the greatest need of a service, such as vaccination or antiviral treatment or scarce medical resources or care, in the event of a pandemic influenza outbreak.

**Providers** - Those individuals providing services directly to the community. Examples include physicians, nurses, hospitals, etc.

**Public Health Emergency** - Emergency health threats, including pandemic influenza, that require exercise of essential government functions to ensure the safety of their residents. By declaring an emergency, officials are enabled to enact plans that have been designed to best serve their people while acknowledging the threat of this event requires the attention of various state organizations.

**Quarantine** - A period of detention for persons that may have been exposed to a reportable disease. The period of time will not be longer than the longest period of communicability of the disease. The purpose of quarantine is to prevent effective contact with the general population. Quarantine may be voluntary or enforced.

**Sentinel Providers** - Missouri physicians of any specialty who, in agreement with DHSS, report the total number of patient ambulatory visits each week, as well as the number of patient visits for ILI.

**Situational Awareness** - The ability to generate actionable knowledge through the use of timely and accurate information. This ability is critical, to have and maintain, during a pandemic to create a “common operating picture” so important decisions on response actions and resource allocations can be quickly and correctly made.

**State Program Managers** - Individuals responsible for unique components of the state pandemic influenza plan. These leaders are entrusted to oversee the development and implementation, as needed, of the pandemic influenza response plan.

**Strain Typing** - Laboratory analysis of isolates collected from infected individuals to determine the subtype of influenza virus responsible for the infection and resulting illness.

**Strategic National Stockpile** - CDC's SNS has large quantities of medicine and medical supplies to protect the American public if there is a public health emergency severe enough to cause local supplies to run out. Once federal and local authorities agree that the SNS is needed, medicines will be delivered to any state in the U.S. within 12 hours

**Virological surveillance** - The ongoing and systematic collection and analysis of viruses in order to monitor their characteristics.