

Pandemic influenza

The World Health Organization (WHO) monitors and studies any new [influenza](#) (<http://conditions.health.qld.gov.au/HealthConditions/6/Child-Health/154/Immunisation/723/Influenza-The-Flu>) infections in humans. The WHO will provide information as a threat of a pandemic increases. Australian federal and state governments work together to have in place comprehensive plans to manage a pandemic. These plans will be activated as required.

Unlike many other disasters or public health emergencies, pandemic flu is generally widespread and can come in waves that may last for months or years. If a pandemic is declared, information will be available on preventative measures you can take to protect yourself and others.

If a flu pandemic occurs and you suspect you may have the illness, call [13 HEALTH](#) (<https://www.qld.gov.au/health/contacts/advice/13health/index.html>) (13 43 25 84) or your doctor before visiting to a health facility. As a pandemic virus is highly contagious, they will discuss your symptoms and provide advice on whether a medical examination or further actions may be necessary.

If you are feeling unwell with flu like symptoms you should avoid travel. If you are in a high risk group you should reconsider your need to travel. If travel is essential you should take all practical steps to [prevent influenza infection](#) (<http://conditions.health.qld.gov.au/HealthConditions/2/Infections-Parasites/41/Viral-Infections/723/Influenza-The-Flu>).

For advice about health risks when travelling to overseas destinations, [visit Smart Traveller](#) (<http://www.smarttraveller.gov.au/>).

Other resources:

- [Business pandemic risk management](#) (<http://www.business.qld.gov.au/business/running/disaster-resilience-and-recovery/pandemic-risk-management-for-business>)

Related content

- [Prevent influenza infection](#) (<http://conditions.health.qld.gov.au/HealthConditions/2/Infections-Parasites/41/Viral-Infections/723/Influenza-The-Flu>)