

Acronyms

CCC	Civil Contingencies Committee
CMO	Chief Medical Officer
CO	Cabinet Office
COBR	Cabinet Office Briefing Room
COI	Central Office of Information
CSA	Chief Scientific Adviser
CSM	Committee for Safety of Medicines
DAs	devolved administrations
DCSF	Department for Children, Schools and Families
Defra	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
DFID	Department for International Development
DfT	Department for Transport
DH	Department of Health
DIUS	Department for Innovation Universities and Skills
ECDC	European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control
EMA	European Medicines Agency
EU	European Union
FCO	Foreign and Commonwealth Office
GNC	Government News Co-ordination Centre
HPA	Health Protection Agency
JCVI	Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation
LA	local authority
MHRA	Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency
NCC	News Co-ordination Centre
NHS	National Health Service
NHSD	NHS Direct
NIBSC	National Institute for Biological Standards and Control
OGDs	other government departments

OIE	World Organization for Animal Health
ONS	Office for National Statistics
PCT	primary care trust
SAG	Scientific Advisory Group
SHA	strategic health authority
UKNIPC	UK National Influenza Pandemic Committee
WHO	World Health Organization

Glossary

A/H5N1	Highly pathogenic avian influenza virus, endemic in birds in South East Asia.
Antiviral medicines	Type of medicines used to treat viral infections such as influenza.
Asymptomatic	Infected but not showing symptoms.
Avian	Pertaining to birds.
Case fatality rate	Proportion of individuals contracting a disease who die from it.
Clinical attack rate (Attack rate)	The cumulative proportion of people infected and showing symptoms over a specified period of time.
Containment	Measures to limit the spread of infection from an affected area(s).
Countermeasures	Interventions that attempt to prevent, control or treat an illness or condition.
Epidemic	The widespread occurrence of significantly more cases of a disease in a community or population than expected over a period of time.
Epidemiological models	Mathematical simulations of the spread of a disease and the likely effectiveness of countermeasures.
Epidemiology	The study of the patterns, causes and control of disease in groups of people.
Exit/entry screening	Institution of special measures at points of exit/entry into a country to detect individuals who have – or may have – been exposed to an infection as a measure to reduce the spread of infection.
FFP	International normative standard for respirators.
Hand hygiene	Thorough, regular hand washing with soap and water, or the use of alcohol-based products containing an emollient that do not require the use of water to remove dirt and germs at critical times, eg after touching potentially infected people/objects and before touching others or eating.
Incubation period	The period from entry of infection to the appearance of first symptoms.

Infectivity	The extent to which a given micro-organism infects people (or animals), ie the ability of the organism to enter, survive and multiply in people and cause disease.
Isolation	Separation of individuals infected with a communicable disease from those who are not for the period they are likely to be infectious in order to prevent further spread.
Modelling (risk)	Quantitative assessment from available data of a range of possible risks and identification of those responses that are likely to be both effective and robust over the range of uncertainty.
NHS 24 (Scotland)	National Health Service telephone helpline (Scotland).
NHS Direct	National Health Service telephone helpline (England).
NHS Direct Wales	National Health Service telephone helpline (Wales).
Operational models	Theoretical consideration of all the relevant factors and their interactions to inform implementation plans.
Outbreak	Sudden appearance of, or increase in, cases of a disease in a specific geographical area or population, eg in a village, town or closed institution.
Pandemic	Worldwide epidemic – an influenza pandemic occurs when a new strain of influenza virus emerges which causes human illness and is able to spread rapidly within and between countries because people have little or no immunity to it.
Pathogenic	Able to cause disease.
Prophylaxis	Administration of a medicine to prevent disease or a process that can lead to disease – with respect to pandemic influenza, this usually refers to the administration of antiviral medicines to healthy individuals to prevent influenza.
Quarantine	Separation of those who are thought to have been exposed to a communicable infection but are well, from others who have not been exposed in order to prevent further spread.
Re-assortment	The fragmentation and re-assembly of the genetic material of two similar viruses infecting the same cell to produce a new virus strain.

Reproduction number (Ro)	The average number of secondary infections resulting from each individual case – the ‘basic’ reproduction number is the number of secondary cases in a fully susceptible population without intervention. It measures the degree of transmissibility of an infection.
Respirator	A face mask incorporating a filter. In this document, it implies a particulate respirator, usually of a disposable type, often used in hospital to protect against inhaling infectious agents. Particulate respirators are ‘air-purifying’ respirators because they filter particles out of the air as one breathes.
Segregation	Separation from others (in this case, influenza cases from non-influenza cases).
Shed/shedding virus	Excreting, releasing or casting off the infectious particle (virus).
Social distancing	Strategies that reduce the number, duration and/or intimacy of social contacts with the aim of limiting the opportunities for transmission of influenza.
Surge capacity	The ability to expand provision beyond normal capacity to meet transient increases in demand, eg to provide care or services above usual capacity, or to expand manufacturing capacity to meet increased demand.
Surgical mask	A disposable face mask that provides a physical barrier but no filtration.
Surveillance	The continuing scrutiny of all aspects of the occurrence and spread of disease pertinent to effective control in order to inform and direct public health action.
Symptomatic	Showing symptoms of disease or illness.
Transmission	Any mechanism by which an infectious agent is spread from a source or reservoir (including another person) to a person.
Treatment course	The strength of a medicine, number of doses or length of treatment required to treat a disease.
Viraemia	The existence of viruses or viral particles in the bloodstream.
Virulence	The degree to which a micro-organism is able to cause serious disease.

Wave

The period during which an outbreak or epidemic occurs either within a community or aggregated across a larger geographical area. The disease wave includes the time during which the disease occurrence increases, peaks and declines back towards baseline.