



Asia-Pacific  
Economic Cooperation

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1.8.3

## **Responses to Pandemics**

Purpose: Information

Submitted by: Dr Andrew Pengilley

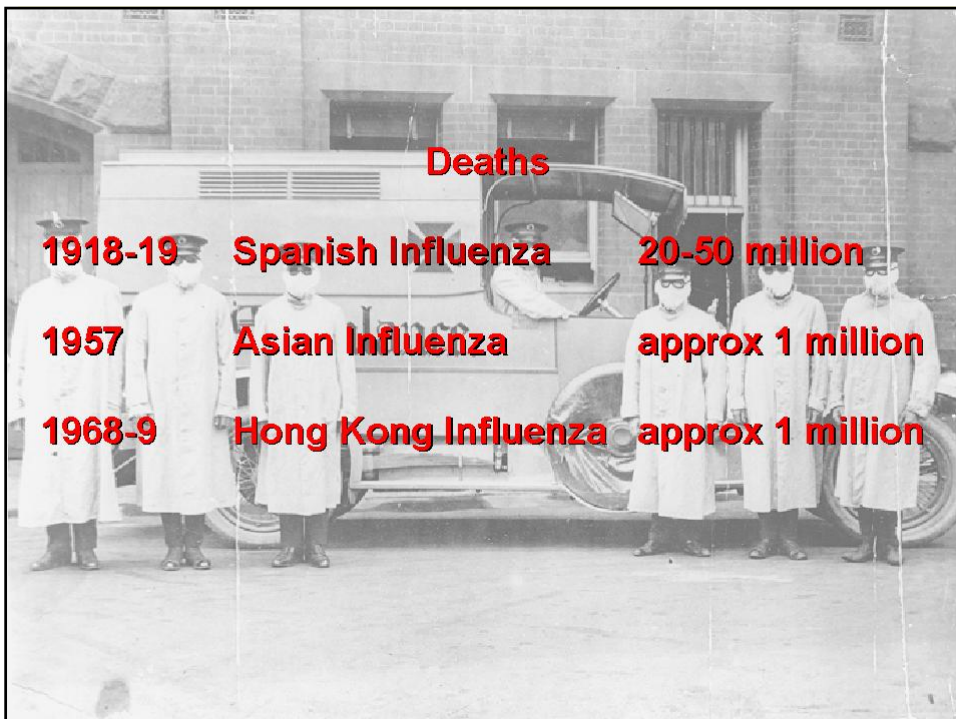
Office of Health Protection, Department of Health and Ageing



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# Responses to Pandemics

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## The Cost of SARS to East Asian Countries in 2003\*

▪ China	0.5% of GDP
▪ Hong Kong	2.9%
▪ South Korea	0.1%
▪ Taiwan	0.5%
▪ Indonesia	0.1%
▪ Malaysia	0.4%
▪ Singapore	3.0%
▪ Thailand	1.4%
▪ Vietnam	1.1%
TOTAL	0.6%

\* Reproduced from Table 3.7 Government Expenditure on Measures to Fight the SARS Outbreak. Asian Development Bank, 2003 Update

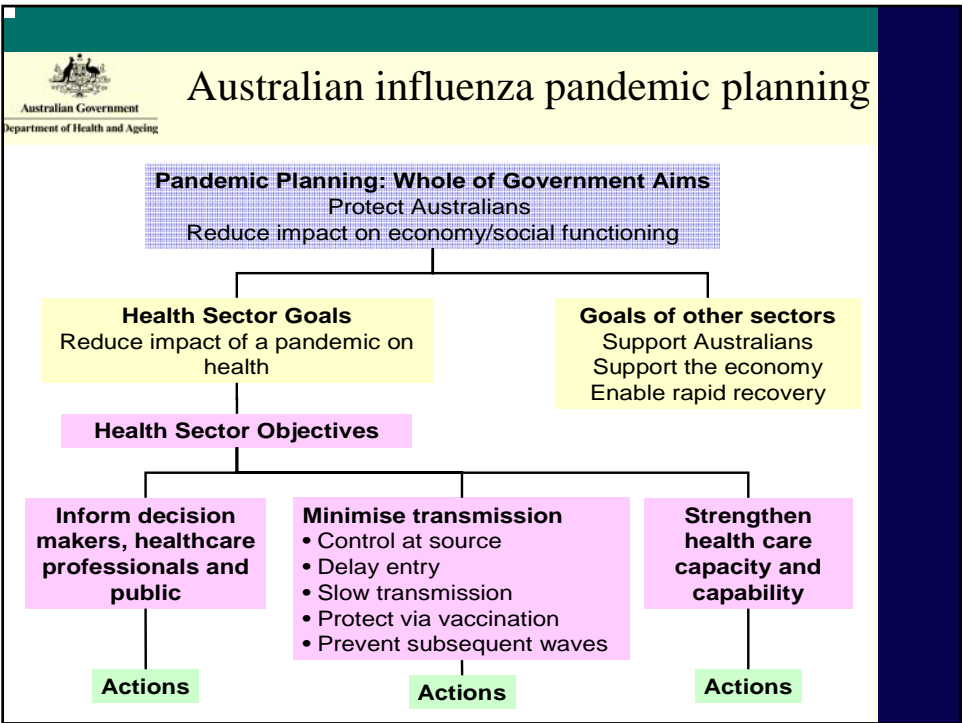
## Difficulties in responding to pandemics.

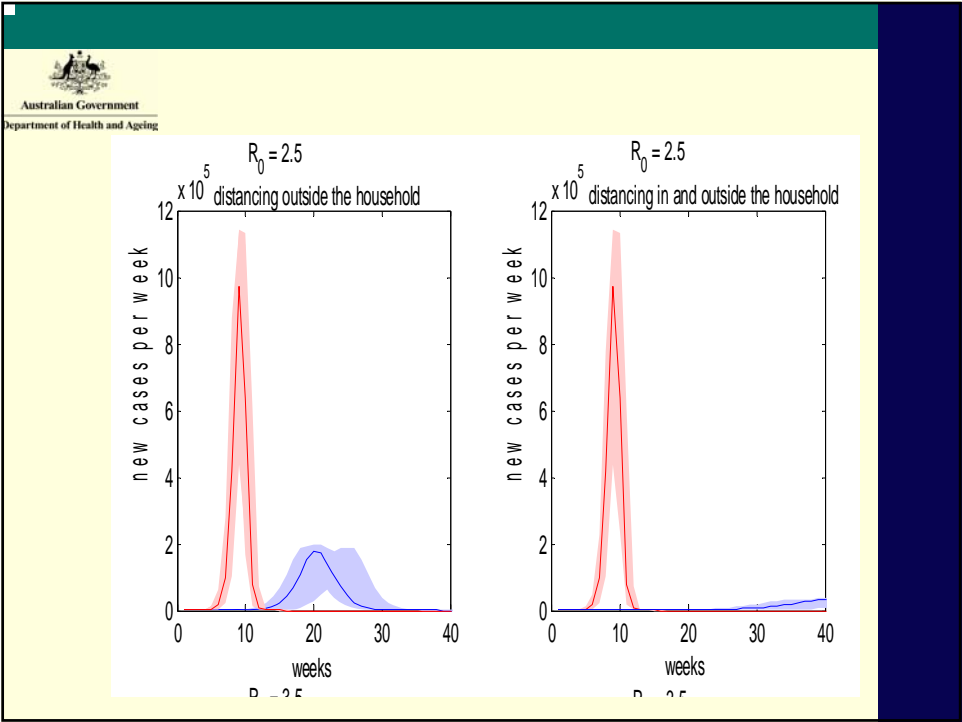
- ❖ Certain to occur, but very difficult to predict exact timing a threat will emerge.
- ❖ Can be difficult to identify early, but require rapid response for effective containment.
- ❖ The scale of a pandemic may not be immediately evident early, and evolves over time.
- ❖ Pandemics attack people, social cohesion and functioning rather than physical infrastructure.
- ❖ Pandemics require co-ordinated response beyond the usual health sector.
- ❖ Pandemics occur globally at one time.
- ❖ Last for years not days or weeks.

  
 Australian Government  
 Department of Health and Ageing

## Effective responses to pandemics

- ❖ Ensure that novel disease outbreaks can be detected.
- ❖ Have a capacity for response to emerging pandemic disease.
- ❖ Have a whole of government strategy to enable decision making and co-ordinate response.
- ❖ Ensure communication of planning to those responsible for implementing response to pandemic.
- ❖ Monitor the progress of the pandemic to assess whether your actions are working.





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- ❖ Communication of pandemic influenza planning.
- ❖ Exercise of pandemic plan.
- ❖ Development of capacity to respond to an outbreak of pandemic influenza.
- ❖ Business continuity planning

INFLUENZA PANDEMIC

