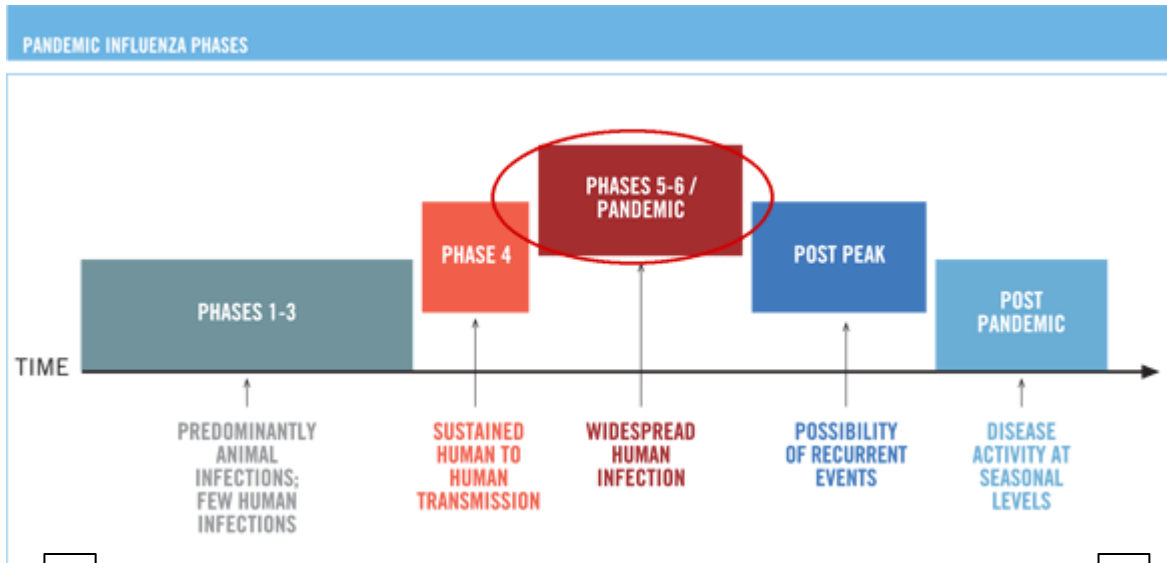


HICMR INFORMATION SHEET 3: 4th MAY 2009 PANDEMIC PHASES - AUSTRALIA AND OVERSEAS

WHO PANDEMIC PHASES



AUSTRALIAN PANDEMIC PHASES

- **ALERT PHASE (OS 3)** - Being alert to the risk of a pandemic and preparing for a pandemic.
- **DELAY PHASE (OS 4-6)** - Once the pandemic virus emerges overseas, keeping the virus out of Australia.
- **CONTAIN PHASE (OS 6)** - Once the pandemic virus does arrive in Australia, limiting the early spread.
- **SUSTAIN PHASE (OS 6)** - Sustaining the response, while we wait for a pandemic vaccine.
- **CONTROL PHASE (OS 6)** - Controlling the pandemic spread with a vaccine.
- **RECOVER PHASE (Post Peak)** - Once the pandemic is under control, returning to normal, while remaining vigilant.

"WHO has a set of pandemic phases that it uses to describe the global situation (phases 1–6). Australia uses the same numbering system as WHO to describe each phase; however, the Australian pandemic phases are designed to describe the situation in Australia and to guide Australia's response. Thus, the Australian and the WHO phase may not always be the same. The Australian phases describe whether the virus is in countries overseas (OS) or in Australia (AUS). Different response strategies may be used simultaneously in different parts of Australia, due to variations in the local stage of a pandemic. Having an Australian system means that actions can be taken in Australia before a change of phase is declared by the WHO

The actions taken are quite different depending on whether the virus emerges overseas or in Australia, however, once the pandemic has begun in Australia (Phase 6) it becomes irrelevant where the virus first emerged. What will be important to Australia is the progress of the pandemic across the country, as this will guide the types of actions that are needed to reduce the impact and eventually control the pandemic." (Source: Australian Health Management Plan for Pandemic Influenza (AHMPPI) (DoHA), 2008)

For further information refer:

The Australian Health Management Plan for Pandemic Influenza (AHMPPI) (DoHA), 2008 and relevant State Plans

<http://www.flupandemic.gov.au/internet/panflu/publishing.nsf/Content/plans-1>

World Health Organisation (WHO) http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/phase/en/index.html