

REPUBLIC OF MONTENEGRO
The Government of the Republic of Montenegro
Ministry of Health

**NATIONAL PLAN FOR THE PROTECTION FROM THE AVIAN
INFLUENZA AND PANDEMIC INFLUENZA**

In Podgorica, October 2005.

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Introduction

Pandemic influenza represents a type of world wide epidemic, which occurs with creation of a new sub-type A of influenza virus, which was not in circulation before among the human population and against which there is no human resistance (immunity). For this reason the infection tends to spread very fast (with the speed of the fastest transportation means) causing large numbers of humans to become diseased world wide.

Beginning with the 16th Century, wherefrom exist trails in writing, every century in average, registered three pandemics each, with intervals of 10 to 15 years in between individual pandemics.

In the course of the 20th Century three pandemics occurred as follows: in 1918, caused by A(H1N1), so called the Spanish fever; in 1957, caused by A(H3N2), so called the Asian influenza and in 1968, pandemic caused by A(H3N2), so called the Hong Kong influenza. Apart from tens of millions of diseased and millions of dead people, each pandemic as a side effect also caused socio-economic disruption of society, the out of which recovery took couple of years. Analysis of these pandemic performed later on by the world known experts, under the patronage of the World Health Organization (WHO), proved that the consequences were disastrous because of governments' of the states were not ready to face and promptly respond to the appearance of the high numbers of diseased and deceased in a very short period of time.

In the scope of decreasing the consequences for the future pandemic influenzas, the experts of the WHO proposed the drafting of recommendations on the global level, in order to make it easier for the individual states to prepare their own national plans for undertaking adequate measures in the event of the new pandemic influenza occurrence. The recommendations given by the WHO are subject to constant and significant modifications, in conformity with the new scientific findings, all in the scope of improving measures for the prevention and suppression of the pandemic. Therefore the National Plan of the Republic of Montenegro is going to be subject to constant reviews and amendments, as for the period before the occurrence of pandemic, as well as during its presence or intermissions in between the pandemic waves, all in accordance with the WHO recommendations and personal experiences.

All experts from this area agree with the statement that the world community from the year 1968 (the occurrence of the last pandemic) has never been so close to initiation of the new pandemic influenza, which most probably would be caused by the race of the influenza virus A, very similar to the sub-type H5N1 (virus of the avian influenza). European Office of the WHO and the EU European Commissariat have recommended to the governments of all the European states to draft the National Plans for combat against the pandemic

influenza, in order to be adequately prepared for the occurrence of the pandemic. The foreseen numbers of the diseased in pandemic, based on the experiences from the previous pandemic occurrences is somewhere in between 10% and 35% of the world population. The number of deceased would be very hard to foresee since it highly depends on virulence of the future pandemic virus. Current lethality with humans from the avian influenza A (H5N1) is extremely high and it amounts to 50%, but it is customary that, in the course of gaining capability of inter-human transmission, as a prerequisite for pandemic occurrence, the virus loses its virulence, therefore it is foreseen that the lethality for the reason of pandemic influenza infection would be significantly lower from the above stated for the avian influenza. Still, the most realistic prognoses of the WHO foresee that the future pandemic would take away between 2 and 7, 5 millions of people's lives.

In the scope of easier determination of the time phases in the course of pandemic development and in accordance with it the undertaking of the suggested measures for the prevention and suppression of pandemic, the WHO developed the classification as presented in the Table 1.

Table 1: Phases of the pandemic development

NEW PHASES	EXPLANATION	PUBLIC HEALTH GOALS TO BE REACHED
Inter-epidemic period (period before pandemic)		
Phase 1	New sub-type of animal influenza virus is not registered with humans, but the circulating sub-type among animals/birds possesses the potential to provoke the infection with humans. The risk of infection and disease of humans is considered to be very low.	Increasing efforts on drafting plans for pandemic occurrence on global, regional, national and sub-national levels.
Phase 2	New sub-type of animal influenza virus is not registered with humans, but the circulating sub-type among animals/birds possesses the potential to provoke the infection with humans.	Decreasing risk for transmission of infection with humans; implementing fast detection of infection,

	The risk of infection and disease of humans is increasing.	prompt information providing and undertaking urgent measures for suppression and prevention.
Period of alert for pandemic		
Phase 3	Infection was determined with humans by new virus sub-type, without the transmission from one human to another or a very low transmission exist when close contacts. *	Providing fast diagnostics and differentiates of the new virus sub-type characteristics, as well as fast detection and undertaking of measures for the event of new occurrences.
Phase 4	"Small groups of diseased with limited virus transmission from one human to another, suggesting that the virus is still insufficiently adapted to the human organism." *	Maintaining spreading of the new virus inside of limited focus areas or decelerating its spreading in order to gain time for implementation of the planned measures, including the vaccine development.

* Differences between phase 1 and phase 2 are based on the risk from infection of human, which may result during virus circulation between animals. Difference is based on different factors and their relative importance based on the current scientific findings. The said factors may include the degree of pathogenesis (virulence) of the virus for humans and animals; dependence of the facts: whether virus occurs only with domestic animals/birds or exclusively with wild ones; whether virus is enzootic or epizootic, geographically spread or localized and other scientific parameters.

** Differences between phases 3, 4 and 5 are based on the estimation of the risk level from the pandemic occurrence. For the assessment of needs different factors are used and their relative importance in accordance with the current scientific findings. Factors may include the rate of transmission (attack), geographic limitations or spreading, heaviness of the disease, genes presence from the human virus sub-types and other scientific parameters.

Phase 5	Larger groups of diseased individuals with still localized virus transmission from one to another individual; virus is becoming increasingly more receptive for human, but the spreading is still limited, since full adaptation of virus, necessary for easy and fast spreading from one human to another, is not reached (the risk of pandemic is fully realistic)	Invest maximum efforts to retain or slow down the spreading of a new virus, in order to gain time for full implementation of all the measures planned against the pandemic.
Period of pandemic		
Phase 6	Intensive and sustainable spreading of the new influenza virus sub-type with general population, having as a consequence massive disease occurrence.	Decrease of dangerous pandemic effect on the whole population of the Republic, as well as decrease of serious socio-economic disturbances appearance for the functioning of social community.
Period of epidemic ending (returning to the period before pandemic)		

Phase 2: Phases of the pandemic development and its effect on international travelings and trade

PHASES ACCORDING TO THE PREVIOUS RECOMMENDATIONS OF WHO	NEW CLASSIFICATION OF PANDEMIC PHASES	REMARKS
<p>Inter-epidemic period</p> <p>Phase 0</p>	<p>Inter-epidemic period (before pandemic)</p> <p>Phase 1 New sub-type of animal influenza virus is not registered with humans, but the circulating sub-type among animals/birds possesses the potential to provoke infection with humans. The risk of infection and disease of humans is considered to be very low.</p>	
	<p>Phase 2 New sub-type of animal influenza virus is not registered with humans, but the circulating sub-type among animals/birds possesses the potential to provoke infection with humans. The risk of infection and disease of humans is growing.</p>	<p>Effecting the decrease of turistic travelings and international trade, in particularly to countries where epidemic diseases of animals /birds is registered</p> <p>No effect</p>

<p>Phase 0 Level 1: Individual humans diseases registered</p>	<p>Period of alert for pandemic Phase 3 The infection of humans with the new virus sub-type is determined, without the transmission from one human to another, or a very rare transmission exists with close contacts.</p>	<p>Effecting the decrease of turistic travelings and international trade, in particularly to countries where epidemic diseases of animals /birds is registered</p>
<p>Phase 0 Level 2 Two or more occurances of human infection registered without any clear confirmation on the ability of virus to transmit from one human to another</p>	<p>Phase 4 Smaller groups of diseased humans with limited transmission of virus from one human to another, suggesting that virus is not yet sufficiently adapted to human organism.</p>	<p>No effect</p> <p>Effecting the decrease of turistic travelings and international trade, in particularly to countries where epidemic diseases of animals /birds is registered</p> <p>No effect</p>

<p>Phase 0 Level 3 Confirmed transmission of the new virus from one human to another</p>	<p>Phase 5 Larger groups of diseased humans with still localized virus transmission from one human to another; virus is becoming more and more human receptive, but the spreading is still limited, since full adaptation of virus, needed for fast and easy spreading from one human to another is not yet reached (pandemic risk is fully realistic)</p>	<p>Effecting the decrease of turistic travelings and international trade, in particularly to countries where epidemic diseases of animals /birds is registered</p>
<p>Period of pandemic</p> <p>Phase 1 Initiation of pandemic confirmed: several epidemic in at least one country, spreading of virus to other countries</p>	<p>Period of pandemic</p> <p>Phase 6 Intensive and sustainable spreading of the influenza virus sub-type within general population having mass diseases as consequence.</p>	<p>No effect</p> <p>There is still no drastic effect on international travelings and international trade.</p>
<p>Phase 2 Epidemic in one or more regions of the world</p>		<p>Significant effect on restriction of international travelings and international trade.</p>
<p>Phase 3 Ending of the first pandemic wave</p>		<p>Restrictions abolished or significantly decreased</p>

<p>Phase 4</p> <p>Other and eventually later on pandemic waves</p>		<p>The following round of restrictions in accordance with the volume of the affected region</p>
<p>Post-pandemic period</p> <p>Returning to the phase 0</p>	<p>Period of ended epidemic</p> <p>Returning to the period before pandemic</p>	<p>Returning to the period before pandemic</p>

Global epizootic and epidemiologic situation in the world is such that diseases get registered mostly with animals/birds and very rarely with humans (for the time being sustainable inter-human transmission was not decisively confirmed), which indicates that the world right now may be in the Phase 3 of the potential pandemic development.

Avian influenza A(H5N1) among animals/birds is mainly registered within the region of the South-East Asia, although occurrences were registered in Kazakhstan and Russia.

Diseases of humans are, for the time being, registered in Vietnam, Thailand, Cambodia and Indonesia (the disease was confirmed in laboratories with 116 persons, out of which 60 died).

GOAL OF DRAFTING THE NATIONAL PLAN

Preparing the Republic of Montenegro to recognize, as soon as possible, the occurrence of pandemic in order to be able to apply in timely manner beforehand developed measures for the prevention and suppression of the pandemic influenza, which would significantly decrease the number of diseased and dead humans, as well as the negative socio - economic influence on the whole social community.

Some of the effects of pandemic at the health and other community systems

Increased inflow of patients towards the medical institutions (for the reason of usual medical treatment or

All the measures and activities from the Plan are grounded on legal provisions (The Law on

Protection of Citizens from the Infective Diseases, “Official Gazette of the Republic of Montenegro”, no. 32/05; The Law on Veterinary, “Official Gazette of the Republic of Montenegro”, no. 11/04”) and the latest recommendations of the WHO (WHO/SDS/CSR/GIP/2005.5 and WHO/SDS/CSR/GIP/2005.8).

In accordance with the recommendations of the WHO, recommended goals and activities in all the phases of the Plan are grouped into five different categories:

1. Planning and Coordination
2. Monitoring and Estimation of the Situation
3. Prevention and Suppression
4. Activities in the Health System
5. Communications

Scope of implementing all the activities will depend from the resources provided. Determined measures are based on the latest scientific findings on the season epidemics of influenza and previous pandemic

GOALS AND ACTIVITIES IN THE PERIOD BEFORE PANDEMIC

Phase I

General goal:

- 1.1. Strengthening preparedness of the social community for the occurrence of avian influenza and pandemic influenza on the republican and municipal levels.

1 – Planning and Coordination

Specific goals are the following:

- 1.1. Developing and maintaining plan for the occurrence of avian influenza and possible pandemic influenza, harmonized with international plans;
- 1.2. Advancing national capacities for prompt reaction at the first reports on the new influenza virus sub-type;
- 1.3. Developing efficient mechanisms for mobilization and fast transfers of resources (human and equipment) into municipalities where they are needed (forming mobile teams);
- 1.4. Developing efficient mechanisms for fast decision making and undertaking activities at the municipal, republican and international levels, on the occasion of occurrences related to avian influenza and pandemic virus,

strengthening mutual cooperation between ministries and governments of neighboring countries.

Activities for the implementation of the goals are the following:

- Ministry of Health of the Republic of Montenegro forms the Working Group for drafting of the National Plan of Activities and Needs for the event of occurrence of avian influenza and pandemic influenza, which is formed on the grounds of the Minister's decision.
- Adoption and periodical harmonization of the National Plan is done in accordance with the latest WHO recommendations and with cooperation between the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Industry and other competent Ministries.
- The Government of the Republic of Montenegro, at the proposal of the Ministry authorized for the health affairs and the Ministry authorized for the agricultural, forestry and water industry affairs, adopts the National Plan of the Republic of Montenegro for the event of occurrence of avian influenza and pandemic influenza, which contains the activities, measures, manner of implementation and needs, before and during the occurrence of avian influenza and pandemic influenza.

After the adoption of the National Plan, the Institute for Public Health, Clinical Center of the Republic of Montenegro, Specialized Hospital“ Jovan Bulajic” for lungs diseases and competent authorities from the field of agriculture, forestry and water industry, are preparing guidebooks with clear directives, actions and procedures from the field of prevention, diagnosis and therapy in the event of suspicion on the occurrence of avian influenza and/or pandemic influenza. These guidebooks, based on needs, would be reviewed in accordance with the WHO and OIE recommendations.

On the grounds of the national Plan, based on the same methodology, municipal units in cooperation with the local health, veterinary and other relevant subjects (Ministry of Interior, fire department, plumbing and utilities services, public transportation, kindergartens and schooling institutions and others) are preparing and adopting municipal plans for the event of occurrence of avian influenza and/or pandemic influenza together with the names of the responsible persons.

At the proposal of the Ministers of Health and Agriculture, respective, the Government of the Republic of Montenegro formed the republican coordination headquarters whose President is the Vice-President of the Government. Local self-governing units are forming municipal coordination headquarters who's Presidents are the Presidents of the respective municipalities.

The network of managing, activities and regulations before and during the occurrence of the avian influenza and/or the pandemic influenza is presented in the **Enclosure 1**.

Provision of the necessary resources for the prevention, diagnosis and medical treatment (professional staff, immune-biological means, equipment and means for laboratory diagnosis, means for personal protection, disinfectants, necessary medicines, specific equipment and devices for medical treatment of the heavily diseased patients and their prompt activation in the case of need) is going to be two-way direction: from the Republican level through the Republican coordination headquarters to the local self-government units, as well as the coordination of needs from the local level to the Republican level.

2 – Monitoring and Evaluation of the Situation

Specific goals are the following:

- 2.1. Monitoring newest information on the season moving of influenza, on national and international levels.
- 2.2. Monitoring information on infections with the new influenza virus sub-type, with animals and with humans.

Activities for implementation of the goals are the following:

- Constructing the Web Site of the Institute for Public Health (IPH) with constant updating of information, which the IPH forwards to the local health institutions and to means of information.
- Establishing definition of the occurrence and adaptation of the existing system of supervision for the early detection of the occurrence, with weekly and if needed daily reporting and feedback information towards all relevant subjects in the Republic and means of information.
- Urgent reporting of the unusual state or occurrences of the diseased cases to the Office of the WHO in Podgorica.
- Samples of the patients material from animals/birds and humans, would be sent over the specialized veterinary laboratory that is over the Institute for Health, to the nearest reference centers of the international Organization for Animals Health (OEI) and to the WHO.
- Monitoring of the season moving of influenza with collective reports, affected geographical parts of the Republic, resistance of the risk groups, as well as tracking of the total and specific morbidity and mortality, may serve for the estimation of additional needs during pandemic.
- Recognizing epidemic is possible over the indirect indexes (absence from work of the working population, absence in the pre-school and schooling institutions, occupancy of beds, hospitalization in large numbers, increased number of medical check-ups in the primary health protection institutions, increased spending of medications, increased number of funerals).

3 – Prevention and Suppression

Specific goals are the following:

- 3.1. Harmonizing measures for the prevention and suppression of the disease, in accordance with the national legal provisions, international Health Rule Book and recommendations of the OEI and WHO.
- 3.2. Planning budgetary reserves for procurement of the necessary equipment, medications and vaccines which would be used in the event of the pandemic occurrence.

Activities for implementation of goals are the following:

In accordance with the OEI and WHO recommendations, to prepare:

1. Guidebook referring to the passengers behavior within international traffic, health supervision after returning from the infected areas;
2. Guidebook for procedures and manners of sample material taking for the microbiological and other laboratory analysis, and the manner of their transport to the reference centers;
3. Guidebook for the application of the disinfection means in the infected areas and the manner of the diseased transportation;
4. Guidebook for the work of veterinary teams for destruction of the infected animals.

Suspicious occurrence detected during health supervision is isolated at the infective diseases ward, in accordance with the provisions of the Law on the Protection of Population from the Infective Diseases.

The program for immunization and chemical profilax would be adapted to reaching the scope of priority target groups, according to the recommendations of the WHO respecting the logistical needs (storing, distribution, “cold chain”, vaccine centers, staff and checkpoints for vaccine) (Enclosure 2 – The List of Priorities for the Application of Monovalent Vaccine and chemical profilax with anti-virus medications).

4 – Activities of the Veterinary and Health System

Specific goals are the following:

- 4.1. Providing adequate conditions for respiratory isolation and medical treatment of the suspected cases of disease, at the beginning of the epidemic.

Activities for the implementation of the goals are the following:

- Drafting the Guidebook for acceptance, isolation, medical treatment and care of the suspected cases in determined health institutions at the beginning of spreading the new influenza virus sub-type, as well as of high number of diseased during the epidemic in health and other determined buildings (hotels, student's homes, children kindergartens, schools, barracks etc.)
- Determining buildings and medical teams for the needs of quarantine and prepare the same for the acceptance of persons.
- Prepare infective wards and separately isolated parts of the units for intensive care with the option for mechanical ventilation, for acceptance, accommodation, isolation and treatment of the diseased.
- Determine responsible persons for managing and control of the health system in the occurrence of pandemic.
- Identify priorities of the health system for each phase of the Plan (**Enclosure 3 – The Plan of the Available Capacities of the Health Workers, Volunteers and Bed Funds**).
- Assure for the application of the routine laboratory protection and safe sample taking and draft the **Guidebook (program) for the hospital infections control**.
- Estimate the quantity of necessary medications and other material and assure supply (**Enclosure 4 – The Plan of Needs in Medications and Equipment in the Period of Pandemic**).
- Provide for enough quantity of personal protection equipment (**Enclosure 5 – Estimation of the Personal Protection Equipment Needs**)
- Provide for enough quantity of laboratory diagnostic reagents and tests (**Enclosure 6 – Estimation of Needs of Biochemical and Microbiological Laboratories and RTG services**).
- Increasing the degree of information and responsibility through additional trainings of medical and non-medical workers for pandemic influenza).

5 – Communications

Specific goals are the following:

- 5.1. Assure for the regular communication among Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture and other ministries, as well as of other institutions which might be included in the activities of the Plan.
- 5.2. Maintaining adequate level of attention of the responsible leadership structures for implementation of the National Plan
- 5.3. Assure cooperation with the public informing means (advises for the passengers in the international traffic).

Activities for the implementation of goals are the following:

- Establish the plan of communication with the phases of communication strategy, before and during the pandemic among the decision makers and with the Office of the WHO in Podgorica.
- Construct web site containing relevant information.
- Introduce the public informing means with the Plan.

Phase II

General goal:

- 1.1. Decreasing the risk of infection transmission to humans and early detection of the suspicious cases among animals/birds and humans.

1 – Planning and Coordination

Specific goals are the following:

- 1.1. Coordinating the application of preventive and controlling measures in direct cooperation of the health and veterinary service, in the scope of decreasing risk for infection with humans.
- 1.2. Introduce zero supervision in order to, in the event of suspicion of the disease occurrence with animals/birds or humans, caused by the new influenza virus sub-type, assure for the prompt response from the veterinary that is from the health service.

Activities for the implementation of goals are the following:

- Activating mutual action of veterinary and health services and other relevant subjects (Ministry of Interior, Customs Administration, public utility service etc.)
- Assuring for the ability of fast mobilization and moving multi-sector experts (mobile teams) in the scope of team working.
- Assuring for the ability of fast directing of the planned reserve resources to jeopardized area.

2 – Monitoring and Estimation of the Situation

Specific goals are the following:

- 2.1. Monitoring virus transmission inside specific and between general animal species in the initial phase and report to the OEI, WHO and reference laboratories for diagnosis of influenza with animals/birds and humans.
- 2.2. Performing current risk estimation for the occurrence of virus transmission among animals/birds and from animals/birds to humans, as well as the possibility of potential virus transmission from one human to another.

Activities for the application of the goals are the following:

- Implementing monitoring over animals and humans, in accordance with the recommendations of the OEI, WHO and International Health Rule Book.
- Urgently send specimens of infected animals in the reference laboratories OEI, for virus identification, over Specialized Veterinary Laboratory.
- Urgently send the specimens of suspicious occurrences with humans to the reference laboratories of WHO, for the reason of virus identification, through the Institute for Public Health – Microbiological Center.
- At the infected area implement epizootic and epidemiologic, as well as the laboratory researches, in the scope of estimation of disease spreading.
- If highly sensitive and specific fast serological tests are provided, implement testing procedure with exposed farmers, including their families and veterinarian.

3 – Prevention and Suppression

Specific goals are the following:

- 3.1. Disable spreading with animals/birds.
- 3.2. Decrease the risk of infection, that is occurrence of disease with humans who have been in contact with the diseased animals/birds.
- 3.3. Revise estimates of needs for anti-virus medicines.
- 3.4. Decrease the risk of co-infection of human and animal race with people.

Activities for implementation of the goals are the following:

- Undertake extermination of diseased poultry in accordance with the Guidebook and recommendations of the OEI.
- Undertake chemical profilax or perform medical supervision in the scope of early detection of the disease symptoms and early application of anti-virus medicines.

If the Republic of Montenegro has not registered diseases with animals:

- Establish and improve mechanisms for exchange of epizootic and epidemiologic data and draft the **Guidebook for the Control of Infection Among Animals/Birds and Humans**.

If the Republic of Montenegro has registered the disease with animals/birds:

- Introduce zero reporting in the scope of increased vigilance.
- Implement measures for the prevention of spreading and suppression of the infection among animals/birds.
- Undertake health supervision over the members of the veterinary teams in charge for implementation of measures for the suppression and uprooting of the infection among animals/birds in the scope of early detection of the disease symptoms and early application of anti-virus medicines.
- Provide for the activities in relation to potential occurrence of infection spreading from animals/birds to humans and potential inter-human infection (education over electronic and printed media about measures for decrease of the infection risk, when having contacts with animals/birds and about manners of maintaining personal and public hygiene, correct use of personal protection equipment, adequate application of anti-virus profilax etc.)
- Revise needs for anti-virus medicines.
- In the case of possessing approved and recommended specific mono-valence vaccine, undertake vaccination of the certain scope among members of the risk groups (farmers, veterinarian).

4 - Activities of the Veterinary and Health System

The specific goals are the following:

- 4.1. Decrease the risk of potential (accidental) spreading of virus during sample takings and transport of infective material, and laboratory procedures by implementing the adopted procedures given in the Guidebooks, as well as providing for the conditions for biological safety.

Activities for implementation of the goals are the following:

- Warn the responsible authorities in the network of managing veterinary and health systems to check the plan of readiness for the occurrences of avian influenza and/or pandemic influenza, and to check qualification of the veterinary system for the application of measures for the prevention of spreading, suppression and uprooting of avian influenza among animals/birds, as well as of the health system for acceptance of the

suspected/diseased persons who require measures of quarantine that is measures of isolation and specialized clinical treatment.

5 - Communications

Specific goals are the following:

- 5.1. Assure for adequate information to be forwarded promptly between veterinary and health coordinators on all levels, as well as with other involved subjects.
- 5.2. Provide for the regular informing of citizens of the Republic of Montenegro over electronic and printed media.

Activities for implementation of the specific goals are the following:

- Bringing up to date the lists of the persons responsible for communication and coordination of inter-agency activities.
- Introducing the public with actual information on the virus spreading among animals/birds and on the health risk for humans, as well as emphasizing the risk groups among humans particularly exposed to risk of the infection spreading from animals to human (provide written instructions).

GOALS AND ACTIVITIES IN THE PERIOD OF ALERT FOR PANDEMIC

Phase III

General goal:

- 1.1. Assuring for fast description of characteristics of the new virus sub-type, fast definition of occurrence, report of the disease and application of measures for the suppression of the infection spreading.

1 – Planning and Coordination

Specific goals are the following:

- 1.1. Raising the level of coordination headquarters readiness, in accordance with the Plan, formed on the levels from republican to the local.
- 1.2. Timely coordination and application of measures, in order to decrease the risk from spreading infection.

Activities for implementation of the goals are the following:

- Activate the operational plans and coordination headquarters.
- Perform the repeated harmonization of the Plan, updating and control on all levels.
- Provide for mechanisms for assistance to the authorized services in the area in which the occurrence is registered.

2 – Monitoring and Estimation of the Situation

Specific goals are the following:

- 2.1. Re-examining and, based on needs, improving the existing mechanisms of supervision for early detection and recognition of the disease, as well as undertaking measures for the reason of potential health threat for population.
- 2.2. Early detection of the disease in the scope of preventing further spreading.

Activities for implementation of the goals are the following:

- Introduction of the zero reporting for the territory of the whole Republic.
- Fast confirmation of the infection and reporting to the authorized officials, using defined manners of communication.
- Assuring fast virology treatment of sample materials taken from the first occurrence in cooperation with collaborative centers of the OEI and WHO.
- Following the conditions of biological safety during laboratory work and sample transportation.
- Epizootic and epidemiological clarification of the occurrence (source of infection, way and manner of transmission, contacts, period of incubation, period of contamination).
- In the case of need, amend the definition of occurrence or modify the existing definition, based on the recommendation of the OEI and WHO.
- Describe clinical characteristics of infection with animals/birds, that is of humans and inform the OEI and WHO.

- Intensify supervision over humans and animals/birds, including detection of the first contacts, in accordance with the recommendations of the OEI, provisions of the International Health Rule Book and national legislation.
- Veterinary, that is health service perform identification and announce the infected and jeopardized areas, in accordance with the existing regulations from this field.
- Identifying risk groups among animal and human population, for the reason of undertaking preventive measures.
- Estimate the efficiency of medical treatment and measures of infection suppression, and if needed revise them.
- Continue sample collection and sending the isolated virus and other necessary information to referent centers of OEI and WHO.

3 – Prevention and Suppression

Specific goals are the following:

- 3.1. Decrease the risk of transmitting infection among animals/birds and humans.
- 3.2. Decrease diseases and dying of people.
- 3.3. Evaluation of methods efficiency on the prevention and suppression of infection.

Activities for implementation of the goals are the following:

If the Republic of Montenegro has registered the disease

- Apply adequate veterinary and health measures in accordance with this Plan in consultation with the relevant subjects. Implement rigorous control of the applied measures.
- Send timely the samples of animal/bird and human materials to the referent OEI and WHO laboratories of Great Britain, in the scope of determining anti-gene and genetic characteristics of virus (for potential genetic changes).
- Apply chemical profilax with anti-virus medicines on people professionally exposed when implementing measures of animal infection suppression, researching contacts and threat suspicious and proved cases.
- For the persons who have been in contact with the diseased animals/birds apply post-expositional chemical profilax with anti-virus medicines.
- With cases suspected for disease, initiate medical treatment with anti-virus medicines inside 36-48 hours from the occurrence of the first symptoms.

- Continually promote vaccination with season influenza vaccine in the scope of decreasing risk from co-infection of humans who, most probably, are going to be exposed to the animal virus (farmers and veterinarians).

If the Republic of Montenegro has not registered the disease

- Re-evaluate the efficiency of measures for prevention and suppression of infections with animals/birds and humans.
- Re-evaluate again the availability of the anti-virus medicines.
- Review data on efficiency and safety of anti-virus medicines and if needed change strategy, instruction and priorities in accordance with experiences from other countries where disease is registered.
- Revise the strategy of vaccine usage with estimation of needs for additional vaccine and other medicine material quantities (for example: needles and syringes).

4 – Activities of Veterinary and Health Systems

Specific goals are the following:

- 4.1. Decrease the risk of potential (accidental) virus spreading, during the application of measures for the suppression of infection among infected animals/birds, sample-taking, transport and in laboratories, by obeying procedures and conditions of biological safety.
- 4.2. Prevention of hospital and laboratory infections.
- 4.3. Increase of the state of alert among veterinary and health workers, bearing in mind the potential threat of mass disease spreading among animals/birds and humans.

Activities for implementation of the goals are the following:

If the Republic of Montenegro has registered the disease

- Urgent reporting of suspicious and new occurrences and implementation of measures for suppression and uprooting with animal population.
- Urgent reporting of suspicious and new occurrences and implementation of quarantine measures, isolation and other measures with human population.

- Undertake confirmation of adequate medicines and diagnostic supplies, as well as of manners of distribution.
- Assure for the application of procedures for suppression of infection and prevention of transmission within hospital conditions.
- Assure for the observation of the standard procedures for biological safety in laboratories and safe handling of samples, as well as of their transport.

If the Republic of Montenegro has not registered the disease

- Updating the exchange of epizootic and epidemiologic data and based on the needs revising the Guidebooks for control of the infection among animals/birds and humans in accordance with the recommendations of the OEI and WHO.
- Renewing the definition of occurrence, updating the protocols of medical treatment and assistance in detecting occurrences, medical treatment and suppression, as well as of monitoring the infection.
- Confirming the procedure for medical treatment of patients, as well as for control of infection according to existing WHO instructions.

5 - Communication

Specific goals are the following:

- 5.1. Prevention of panic arising among citizens for the reason of potential infection spreading.
- 5.2. Assure for fast and adequate exchange of information between veterinary and health service and other relevant subjects.

Activities for implementation of the goals are the following:

If the Republic of Montenegro has registered the disease

- Urgently inform the OEI, WHO and Governments of the neighboring states of epizootic and epidemiologic situation in Montenegro and of potential needs for assistance when implementing measures for prevention and suppression.

If the Republic of Montenegro has not registered the disease

- Follow and prepare on regular basis the information material for informing public.

Phase IV

General goal:

- 1.1. Suppression of the disease in the scope of limited focus area or slowing down the spreading of disease, in order to gain time for implementation of planned activities.

1 – Planning and Coordination

Specific goals are the following:

- 1.1. Coordinating and applying procedures in the scope of delaying or suppressing the spreading of infection among humans in the scope of limited focus areas.

Activities for implementation of the goals are the following:

If the Republic of Montenegro has registered the disease

- Needs based, place mobile teams in diseased and jeopardized areas.
- Provide for cooperation with neighboring countries through information exchange and similar.
- Activate the procedures for gaining additional resources and identify needs for international assistance.

If the Republic of Montenegro has not registered the disease

- Establish mechanisms for cooperation with neighboring states where the disease is registered in the scope of obtaining information for possible correction of the planned measures.
- Raise the level of readiness of all services.

2 – Monitoring and Estimation of the Situation

Specific goals are the following:

- 2.1. Evaluate the potential possibility of virus spreading from one human to another.
- 2.2. Implement epidemiological investigation of contacts (including the identification of risk factors and other additional data on spreading, at the request of the WHO).
- 2.3. Evaluate the influence of the measures applied for suppression and, based on needs, perform the correction of the planned measures.

Activities for implementation of the goals are the following:

If the Republic of Montenegro has registered the disease

- Urgently inform the WHO on the registered occurrences of the disease, including suspicious cases.
- Implement all the planned measures for the suppression of spreading of the disease.
- Describe and estimate the epidemiologic, virological and clinical characteristic of the infection and sustainability of the inter-human transmission (from one human to another) and implement eventual corrections of the occurrence definition, as well as perform additional estimation of possibilities of spreading of the infection at the wider social community.
- Implement estimation of medical treatment successfulness in the scope of establishing optimal medical treatment protocol.
- Evaluate the influence of suppression measures at the course of the epidemic and in reference to that send the report to the WHO with possible recommendations for their correction/amendments.

If the Republic of Montenegro has not registered the disease

Intensify supervision on all the levels and in particular at the border crossings in accordance with the Law, International Health Book of Rules and actual recommendations of the OEI and WHO.

3 – Prevention and Suppression

Specific goals are the following:

- 3.1. Slow down or suppress the transmission of virus from one human to another.
- 3.2. Decrease the occurrence of the disease and deaths.
- 3.3. Estimate the need for wider application of the anti-virus medicines.
- 3.4. In the event of availability of the mono-valence vaccine, applying them in accordance with the adopted Plan.

Activities for implementation of the goals are the following:

If the Republic of Montenegro has registered the disease

- Implement measures anticipated by the Plan taking in consideration the newest WHO recommendations.
- Estimate the efficiency of these measures on the ground of personal experiences and through cooperation with the WHO.
- Use of anti-virus medicines as profilax for close contacts with the diseased on the grounds of risk assessment for occurrence of the heavy form of the disease and for the early treatment of the diseased.
- Estimate the efficiency of the profilax when attempting to suppress spreading of the infection.
- If mono-valence vaccines are available, applying them in accordance with the adopted Plan.

If the Republic of Montenegro has not registered the disease

- In accordance with the Law and with the provisions of the international Health Rule Book and recommendations of the OEI and WHO, increasing the measures of medical supervision, by the border crossing authorized officials, over passengers and goods in international traffic.

4 – Activities of the Health System

Specific goals are the following:

- 4.1. Preventing hospital and laboratory infections.
- 4.2. Provide for availability and optimal use of capacities in the infected areas.

Activities for implementation of the goals are the following:

If the Republic of Montenegro has registered the disease

- Informing local health institutions to inspect the influenza as diagnosis with the diseased patients and report the findings to the Institute for Public Health.
- Estimating the use of the occurrence definition, protocol of medical treatment and measures for suppression of the infection.
- Identification of the alternative strategies for isolation of the diseased and medical treatment.
- Revision of needs for personal protection.

If the Republic of Montenegro has not registered the disease

- Estimation of the efficiency of the applied measures in the states where the disease is registered and accordingly correcting the Plan.

5 – Communications

Specific goals are the following:

- 5.1. Prevention of the panic arising among citizens for the potential infection spreading.
- 5.2. Assure for the fast and adequate information exchange among veterinary and health services and other relevant subjects.

Activities for implementation of the goals are the following:

If the Republic of Montenegro has registered the disease

- Urgently informing the OEI, WHO and Governments of the neighboring states about the epizootic and epidemiologic situation in the Republic of Montenegro and of the potential need for assistance when applying measures for prevention and suppression.
- Establish prompt, clear and open communication with the public.

If the Republic of Montenegro has not registered the disease

Following and preparing informative material on regular basis with the instruction providing for self-protection and home treatment of easier occurrences, in order to decrease the unnecessary pressure on health service.

Phase V

General goal:

- 1.1. Slowing down the spreading of infection or suppressing the infection for the reason of postponing the pandemic occurrence and gaining time for the application of measures against pandemic.

1 – Planning and Coordination

Specific goals are the following:

- 1.1. Coordination and application of procedures in the scope of delaying or suppressing the infection spreading among humans in the area of infection, in order to, as long as possible, delay or prevent the arising of the pandemic.

Activities for implementation of the goals are the following:

If the Republic of Montenegro has registered the disease

- Announcing the infected and jeopardized area(s).
- Implementing the current evaluation of the measures undertaken on the field.
- Reconsidering the need for staff increasing at the most forward levels of the health activities and other public services.

2 – Monitoring and Estimation of the Situation

Specific goals are the following:

- 2.1. Estimating risk of the pandemic occurrence and
- 2.2. Estimating and if needed correcting the public health measures, required as response to pandemic.

Activities for implementation of the goals are the following:

If the Republic of Montenegro has registered the disease

- Widen and adapt the activities from the phase 4.
- Inform the WHO on the potential increase of territory affected by epidemic.
- Implement increased supervision over respiratory wards (by phone or by questionnaire), by daily registers.
- Estimate the influence of the measures applied for suppression, and in cooperation with the WHO perform potential correction of the same.
- Provide for functioning of all public services, in particular in the focus areas, and based on needs perform the reallocation of resources.

If the Republic of Montenegro has not registered the disease

- Increase supervision on all the levels, in particular at the border crossings, in accordance with the Law, the International Health Rule Book and current recommendations of the OEI and WHO.

3 – Prevention and Suppression

Specific goals are the following:

- 3.1. Delaying or stopping the initiation of pandemic.
- 3.2. Decreasing the level of diseases and deaths

Activities for implementation of the goals are the following:

If the Republic of Montenegro has registered the disease

- Applying anti-virus medicines based on the latest recommendations of the WHO and personal experiences.
- In the event of availability of the mono-valence vaccine, applying the later in accordance with the plan.
- Estimating the efficiency of the measures applied in the suppression of the epidemic.

If the Republic of Montenegro has not registered the disease

- Based on the experiences of the states where the disease is registered, redefine the stocks of anti-virus medicines and manner of their application.
- In the event of mono-valence vaccine availability, applying the vaccination in accordance with the Plan and the newest WHO recommendations.

4 – Activities of the Health System

Specific goals are the following:

- 4.1. Balance the activities of the health service with the number of diseased with the use of triage.
- 4.2. Prevent the spreading of virus in the health institutions and laboratories.

Activities for implementation of the goals are the following:

If the Republic of Montenegro has registered the disease

- Urgent and thorough application of the Plan in the diseased area with necessary reallocation of capacities, as well as the estimation of the need to activate the plan to engage previously trained volunteers.
- Recommendation of the isolation at home, self treatments for easier occurrences and assuring for needs of these individuals; engaging centers for social care, Red Cross, other non-governmental organizations and similar services.
- Application of the anti-virus medicine in the form of chemical-profilax (pre-expositional and post-expositional) with professional exposure, if mono-valence vaccine is still not available.

If the Republic of Montenegro has not registered the disease

- Evaluating efficiencies of the measures applied in the states where the disease is registered and perform corrections accordingly.

5 – Communication

Specific goals are the following:

- 5.1. Prevention of the panic arising among citizens for the potential infection spreading.
- 5.2. Assure for the fast and adequate information exchange among veterinary and health service and other relevant subjects and the WHO.

Activities for implementation of the goals are the following:

- Informing public on interventions that need to be applied in the course of pandemic (limited movements, public gatherings banning, schools and kindergartens dismissal, etc.) and regulations for the health services use in order to prevent panic and excessive burden on the health system.
- Prepare public and other partners for potential fast spreading of epidemic, additional measures for the prevention of infection and disturbance in the normal way of living.
- Assure for the fast inter-agency information exchange, as well for the exchange of information with the WHO.

PERIOD OF PANDEMIC

Phase VI

General goal:

- 1.1. Decreasing of dangerous pandemic effects on the health of the overall population of the Republic of Montenegro, as well as decreasing/preventing the occurrence of serious socio-economic disturbances in the functioning of the social community.

1 – Planning and Coordination

Specific goals are the following:

- 1.1. Improving the inter-agency coordination in the scope of decreasing the effects of pandemic on the socio-economic situation in the Republic of Montenegro, as well as providing for the rational allocation of national resources, including the supplies of medicines and vaccines (if available).
- 1.2. Decreasing the degree of diseases and deaths.
- 1.3. Maintain the effectiveness of the health system.

Activities for implementation of the goals are the following:

If the Republic of Montenegro has not registered the disease

- Bringing up to date the structure of the coordination headquarters and the network of managing for preparation of the potential introduction of the state of emergency.
- Finalizing the harmonization of the official guidebooks and recommendations in accordance with other countries experiences where the disease is registered and with the latest WHO recommendations.

If the Republic of Montenegro has registered the disease

- Activation of the coordination headquarters in accordance with the network for managing and coordination.
- Application of all of the relevant elements from the Action Plan and of all the needs for pandemic influenza, including the coordination in the application of specific interventions (introduction of the state of emergency, limitation of movements, public gatherings banning, schools and kindergartens dismissal, etc.), planned allocation of vital resources and of use of health services according to strict priorities.
- Daily evaluation and reporting of current (daily) and cumulative (total) influences of pandemic.

Calming (ending of the pandemic or the decrease of disease in between new waves)

- Ending the state of emergency.

- Planning the needs for the occurrence of new pandemic wave, in accordance with the experiences from the first pandemic wave and from the recommendations of the WHO).
- Supporting the establishments of basic functions of the community, relaxing from the working activities for the staff bearing the hardest burden (efforts) during the first pandemic wave.
- Estimating psychological effects of pandemic and accordingly planning the activities for psychological strengthening of citizens (nation) and members of the most burdened services.
- Exchange of experiences and knowledge of all participants, managers, including public opinions from the aspect of combating against the disease.
- Reconsidering the assistance requests received from the countries with the first pandemic wave still effective.

2 – Monitoring and Estimation of the Situation

Specific goals are the following:

- 2.1. Monitoring epidemiological, virology and clinical disease characteristics, their flow and effects of pandemic on the national level, in the scope of trends prognoses and optimal usage of limited resources.
- 2.2. Estimates of the efficiency of interventions used during the first wave of pandemic in the scope of the potential corrections and planning of the future activities.

Activities for implementation of the goals are the following:

If the Republic of Montenegro has not registered the disease

- Continuation of the emphasized measures of supervision with monitoring of the global epidemiologic situation.
- Estimation of the effects of the vaccination program and of the application of anti-virus medicines in other states (safety, effectiveness, anti-virus resistance) and accordingly performing the potential correction of the planned measures.

If the Republic of Montenegro has registered the disease

- Implementation of the zero reporting in the scope of efficient detection of initial occurrences, their contacts and ways of territorial spreading.

- Monitoring of the potential changes in epidemiologic, virologic and clinical characteristics of the disease.
- Monitoring and estimating the effects on the national level (degree of diseases and deaths, working absentees, defined local and regional focus areas, diseases of risk groups, availability of health workers, burden of the hospital capacities and need for organization of medical treatments within alternative facilities etc.), problems related to burial of victims of pandemic.
- Estimation of the need for urgent measures as for example urgent burials, use of legal procedures, maintenance of basic public services.
- Estimation of whether the resources availability is sufficient and of the influence of the pandemic development on the socio-economic situation in the country.
- Estimation of the applied measures efficiency (vaccination, medical treatments, non-desired effects of anti-virus medicines, as well as of the resistance to the later).

Calming (ending of the pandemic or the decrease of disease in between new waves)

- Estimation of the needs for resources renewing in the scope of preparation for the following pandemic waves, with continuation of supervisory measures implementation.
- Exchange of experiences with international community on the efficiency of the measures applied.

3 – Prevention and Suppression

Specific goals are the following:

- 3.1. Detain and/or suppress the spreading of pandemic.
- 3.2. Decrease of diseases and mortality level.

Activities for implementation of the goals are the following:

Dependent of the availability of mono-valence vaccine and anti-virus medicines, provide for their use in accordance with the Plan.

If the Republic of Montenegro has not registered the disease

- Reconsider and innovate the recommendations for the use of anti-virus medicines, based on the experiences of other countries with existing epidemic influenza and with the latest WHO recommendations.

- Checking distribution plans for personal protection equipment, disinfectant remedies, medicines, vaccines and anti-virus medicines.
- In the event of the availability of the mono-valence vaccine, implementing vaccination of the population according to the Plan.

If the Republic of Montenegro has registered the disease

- Thorough application of adequate measures foreseen by the Plan and by the latest recommendations of the WHO.
- Evaluation of the measures efficiency, if possible.

Calming (ending of the pandemic or the decrease of disease in between new waves)

- Reconsidering the efficiency of preventive and therapeutic measures and needs based renewing of guidebooks, protocol and similar.

4 – Activities of the health system

Specific goals are the following:

- 4.1. Optimal medical treatment of patients with available resources.
- 4.2. Decrease of the pandemic effects on the health of population (degree of diseases and deaths).

Activities for implementation of the goals are the following:

If the Republic of Montenegro has not registered the disease

- Maintaining the high degree of alert of the health system in the scope of prompt response at signs of the beginning of pandemic.

If the Republic of Montenegro has registered the disease

- Fully applying the activities anticipated by the Plan.
- Providing socio-psychological support for the engaged medical workers.
- Providing for permanent communication with the WHO.
- In the event of mono-valence vaccine availability implementing vaccination in accordance with the Plan.

- Publishing data on efficiency of all the applied measures and exchanging experiences with other countries and with the WHO.

Calming (ending of the pandemic or the decrease of disease in between new waves)

- Assuring for vacation and potential substitutions for health workers who born the greatest burden during the course of the first pandemic wave.
- Renewing reserves of medicines, equipment for protection etc.
- Reconsidering the effectiveness of the applied measures and accordingly performing the correction and amendments to the plan for the needs of future pandemic waves.
- Establishing functioning of the basic public services.
- Continuously implementing immunization, according to the Plan, priorities and availability of additional supplies of vaccines.

5 - Communications

Specific goals are the following:

- 5.1. Prevention of the panic arising among citizens caused by the significant increase of the diseased number during pandemic/epidemic
- 5.2. Assure for the support of public for implementation of counter-epidemic measures.
- 5.3. Assure for the fast and adequate exchange of information between the authorized services and the WHO.

Activities for the implementation of the goals are the following:

- Informing public on interventions that need to be applied in the course of pandemic (the state of emergency, limited movements, public gatherings banning, schools and kindergartens dismissal, etc.) and regulations for the health services use in order to prevent panic and excessive burden on the health system.
- Prepare public and other partners for potential fast spreading of epidemic, additional measures for the prevention of infection and disturbances of the normal way of living.
- Establish prompt, clear and open communication with public, over the means of public information.
- Assure for the fast inter-agency information exchange, as well as for the exchange of information with the WHO.

Activities for the implementation of the goals are the following:

If the Republic of Montenegro has not registered the disease

- Maintaining permanent contacts with the means of public information, general public, professional partners and other managers informing them on the pandemic movements in the infected countries.
- Based on needs, redefining key recommendations, informing public on the measures that would be applied in the course of pandemic and which may involve restrictions of traveling, banning of public gatherings, schools and kindergartens dismissal and other measures that may lead to significant decrease of the level of comfort.
- Explaining the need for obeying priorities in the use of health services for the occurrence of pandemic.

If the Republic of Montenegro has registered the disease

- Prevention of the panic arising among citizens by establishing prompt, clear and open communication with the public, over the means of public informing, in order to simultaneously provide for the public support in implementation of all the necessary counter-epidemic measures.

Calming (ending of the pandemic or the decrease of disease in between new waves)

- Undertaking the evaluation of the successfulness of prompt public informing during the course of pandemic wave, with the lessons learned for the following pandemic waves.
- Prepare the public for the possible occurrence of new epidemic waves and new start up of all the necessary counter-epidemic measures.