

This a quick review of facts, events and thinking around the current global pandemic threat. Not everyone thinks the situation is serious. **Use these points to stimulate discussion as you assess the situation.**

## 2009 - REVIEW THE FACTS:

- We have a Code 5 Pandemic Global Alert from the WHO (highest alert)
- An Influenza A N1H1 virus with a rapid human to human transmission rate is active globally
- The World Health Organisation and all associated authorities have been worried about the risk of an avian (bird) flu virus infecting pigs. Why? A pig's cell structure is very similar to our own so when they then pass on the virus, it has morphed into a form that can now attack our human cells.
- This has now happened. **Influenza A H1N1** – commonly called Swine Flu - has morphed into a virus that can now attack our immune system.
- The last time this happened was in 1918, when this particular strain of H1N1 killed over 50 million people worldwide
- May 2009. From starting in Mexico it has now spread to 53 countries,
- there have been 15,510 cases of infection but only 99 deaths.
- **The risk is very high. Why?**
- This is a highly contagious virus and the global spread is now only longer related to travelers from Mexico. ([See the map on the website](#))
- Japan has now closed over 4000 schools (May 09)
- Currently, there is no vaccine
- It is air borne – droplet.
- It can live on a surface for 24 hours and remain contagious.
- We will all need to have well prepared employees who know what
- is expected of them and how to do it if we wish to achieve business continuity

The 2009 Employee Pandemic Preparedness Course is focused on training your employees to set in place in place strict workplace hygiene controls, that when adhered to, builds confidence to continue to come to work.



Source : CDC – US Health Department. World Health Organisation, Ministry of Health .



The 2009 Employees Pandemic Preparedness Course

**Pandemic Situation Assessment Tool**

