

# Pandemic Influenza Reference Guide: Public Health



The public health challenge during a flu pandemic is to dispense mass vaccinations in a crisis environment. In order to vaccinate 300 million Americans, syringe manufacturers could take up to two years to produce the 600 million syringes that would be required based on a two-dose regimen.\* This is in addition to current syringe demand. The federal government has issued guidelines that mention stockpiling syringes, but do not provide a specific formula to guide actual practice. To help with the planning process, BD has identified third party references for your consideration.

## Planning for your Mass Vaccination Campaign:

### HHS Pandemic Influenza Plan, Supplement 6 Vaccine Distribution and Use

Vaccine production, procurement and distribution:

- Develop procedures for collecting, removing, and disposing of used syringes, needles, and other vaccination supplies.
- Develop plan for training vaccinators and other staff responsible for mass vaccination.

Second-dose vaccination:

- A vaccine against pandemic influenza will likely require two doses, administered at least one month apart, to provide a level of immunity comparable to that obtained with seasonal influenza vaccines.

\*<http://www.hhs.gov/pandemicflu/plan/sup6.html>

This resource recommends that you plan for your vaccination supply needs, including two syringes for every person to vaccinate. In addition, it suggests planning for how you'll train vaccine administrators.

### International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Associations (IFPMA), Administration of Pandemic Vaccines

IFPMA suggests that each government/country should clearly anticipate its needs for needles and syringes and take the appropriate measures to secure supplies in advance.

International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Associations,  
Administration of Pandemic Vaccines, an IFPMA IVS ITF Position Statement, May 19, 2006

This position statement suggests that anyone planning for pandemic vaccine distribution needs to plan for procurement of syringes as well.



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## Funding for Syringe Stockpiling:

**Pandemic Influenza Guidance Supplement to the 2006 Public Health Emergency Preparedness Cooperative Agreement: Phase 2, Centers for Disease Control: July 2006, p.14 V. Additional Requirements: 4. Allowable Costs**

“Many additional Critical Tasks that are relevant to pandemic influenza planning, exercise and response may be found in the greater PHEPCA and NBHPP cooperative agreements. New supplies and equipment such as personal protective equipment, **safety syringes**, ventilators, etc., **are allowable purchases.**”

<http://www.bt.cdc.gov/planning/coopagreement/>

This document supports utilizing government funds to stockpile syringes. Although there are many ways to prepare, stockpiling syringes is the only way to ensure that you have the essential supply that you will need to deliver vaccine when it becomes available.

## How Much to Stockpile:

**Canadian Pandemic Influenza Plan, Public Health Agency of Canada: February 2004, Canadian Pandemic Influenza Plan Section 3: Preparedness 3.2.2.2 – Planning Principles and Assumptions**

“Previous experience with outbreak-related immunization clinics indicates that it would be prudent to **prepare for an initial demand of 75% of the target population**. It is recommended that planning activities also **focus on delivering a two-dose program** to ensure that the public health response is ready to deal with this possibility.”

<http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/cpip-pclcpi/>

As a result of its experience with SARS, the Public Health Agency of Canada has a unique perspective on planning and stockpiling. Based on its assumptions, a syringe stockpiling formula may look like this:

**Your Population x .75 x 2 Doses = # Syringes to Stockpile**