

WHO International phases		Overarching public health goals
Inter-pandemic Period		
1	No new influenza virus subtypes detected in humans	Strengthen influenza pandemic preparedness at local level Minimise the risk of transmission to humans; detect and report such transmission rapidly if it occurs.
2	Animal influenza virus subtype poses substantial risk	
Pandemic Alert Period		
3	Human infection(s) with a new subtype, but no (or rare) person-to-person spread to a close contact	Ensure rapid characterisation of the new virus subtype and early detection, notification and response to additional cases. Contain new virus within limited foci or delay spread transmission to gain time to implement preparedness measures, including vaccine development. Maximise efforts to contain or delay spread, to possibly avert a pandemic and to gain time to implement response measures.
4	Small cluster(s) with limited person-to-person transmission but spread is highly localised, suggesting that the virus is not well adapted to humans	
5	Large cluster(s) but person-to-person spread still localised, suggesting that the virus is becoming increasingly better adapted to humans	
Pandemic Period		
6	Increased and sustained transmission in general population UK alert levels 1 Virus/cases only outside the UK 2 Virus isolated in the UK 3 Outbreak(s) in the UK 4 Widespread activity across UK	Minimise the impact of the pandemic