

The Lancet: Influenza in the Asia Pacific

Concluding Remarks

The Lancet: Influenza in the Asia Pacific

Plenary: Strategic Preparedness in the Asia Pacific region

1. Pandemic preparedness and H1N1 severity assessment in Southeast Asia (Hitoshi Oshitani).
 - Focus on SE Asia and the challenges
 - Issue with access to healthcare & chronic conditions not treated well in developing countries
 - Access to antivirals are too expensive.
 - Challenge is reducing infection in the most vulnerable populations
2. How modelling can help us prepare for an influenza pandemic (Ira Longini)
 - Vaccines and vaccine strategies planned for US
 - Described modelling strategies to flatten epidemic curve
 - Children first
 - Virus non-stopable, need a vaccine to stop its spread

Plenary:Public Health Strategy and Operation

3.Implications for medical care in a pandemic (Paul Tambyah)

- Singapore- only sick get to hospital hence see the more severe cases. Use of Flu Centres.
- Countries that are well developed see more severe cases
- Understanding transmission risks in hospital settings
- Healthcare workers need protection

4.Non-pharmaceutical public health interventions in pandemic influenza (Peter Horby)

- Face masks + - hand hygiene can reduce transmission if used early!
 - Impact in community not established.
 - Review of historical 1918 data
- School closure: models; depends on scenarios;
 - substantial social cost
- Hardest decision is to do nothing

Plenary:From Strategy to Operation: experience in the APAC region

5.Keynote:Pandemic influenza preparedness in the Asia-Pacific region: from strategy to operation (Richard Coker)

- Pandemic starts slowly and future uncertain
- Impact uncertain AR;CFR; economic
- Health system issues-?better prepared
- Strategic plans but are they action plans?
- Notion of scarce resources
 - global solidarity
 - Healthcare resources
 - How are these going to be distributed: Cultural differences
- *Differences in risk factor distribution- implications on how virus spreads ie. Cultural differences

6. Country Experiences

China/Viet Nam/Hong Kong/Thailand/Singapore/Taiwan/New Zealand
Pakistan

Plenary: Seasonal Influenza

7. The evolution of seasonal influenza strains (Gavin Smith)

- Pre- & genomic eras/reassortment vs recombination
- Evolution of viruses- “source-sink model”
 - importance of Asia Pacific region
- An exploding field in molecular virology

8. Reducing the disease burden of influenza in children & adults (Mark Simmerman)

- Need to expand childhood vaccination against influenza
- Burden of disease from seasonal among young children is substantial
 - Equivalent to the elderly
- Influenza seasonality has a puzzling picture and not always predictable

9. The value of vaccinating the elderly (Lone Simonsen)

- Difficult to evaluate effectiveness of influenza vaccine in the elderly
- Issue with estimating effectiveness of pandemic `vaccine in the elderly

10. Seasonal control & implications for pandemic preparedness (Paul Chan)

- Seasonality barrier to vaccination
- Willingness to accept pandemic vaccine is related to uptake of season influenza vaccine

Country Experiences (Contn)

Challenges

- Seasonal Influenza, H5N1 & H1N1 2009
 - Unpredictability – scale of outbreak
 - Surveillance system
 - Population
 - Hospital
 - For influenza & other respiratory diseases
- Highest political commitment
 - Multisectorial commitment
 - Integrated avian & human influenza action plans
 - Timely sharing of information
- Risk communication
 - Now and future challenges
 - “mild” influenza
- Laboratory testing
 - Capacity an issue
 - Public/media expectations for lab confirmed numbers

- Clinical support
 - Importance of having clinical guidelines
 - Important lessons from SARS
- Public health interventions
 - Border management
 - School closures/stay home? Paradox with children being driver of epidemic
- Vaccines
 - H1N1 2009 vaccines becoming available
 - Resistance to receiving it
- Sustainability
 - How do you maintain the community momentum
- Limited drug/vaccines/clinical resources

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Pandemic (H1N1)2009

What's all the
fuss?

A PANIC
BALLOON
TAKES OFF

Where have
I come
from?

Where
are we
going?

THANK YOU THE LANCET

BEWARE
OF THE
SNIFFLES!

BEWARE
OF ANYTHING
AIRBORNE!

What can
we do?

BROMHEAD