



# Ethics in influenza preparedness and response plans

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# Weekly Summary EW 09

- **North America:** acute respiratory disease activity remained stable and is lower than expected in most areas.
- **Caribbean:** Jamaica and Bahamas reported an increasing trend in acute respiratory disease.
- **Central America:** Panama and Nicaragua reported increasing trends in acute respiratory disease.
- **South America:** Brazil reported an increasing trend in acute respiratory disease.

# Weekly Summary EW 09

- North America and Colombia, a median of 100% of sub-typed influenza A viruses were pandemic (H1N1) 2009.
- 46 new confirmed deaths in 4 countries were reported.
  - Total: 7,622 cumulative confirmed deaths (Americas)

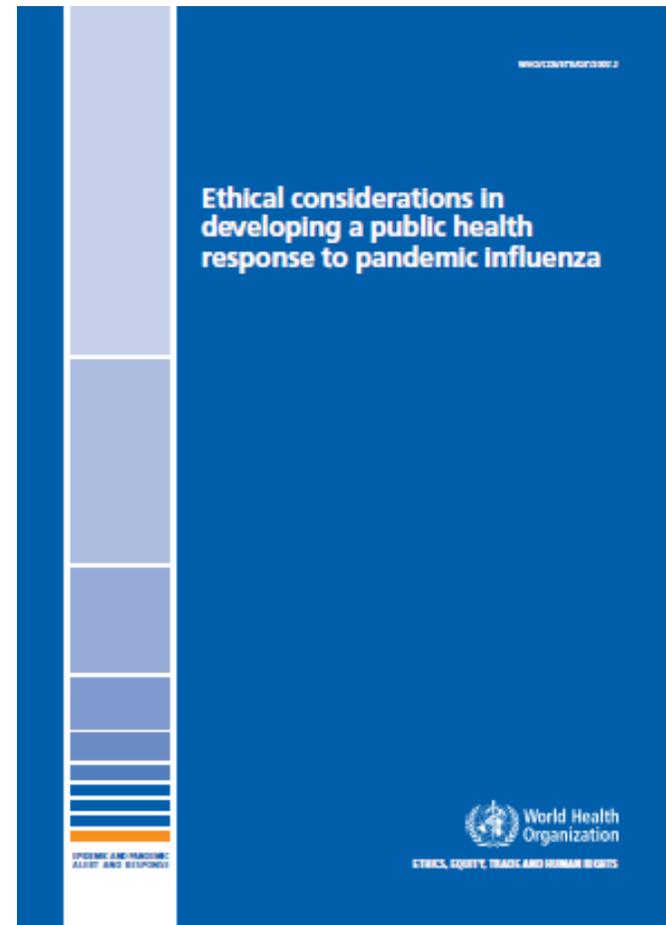
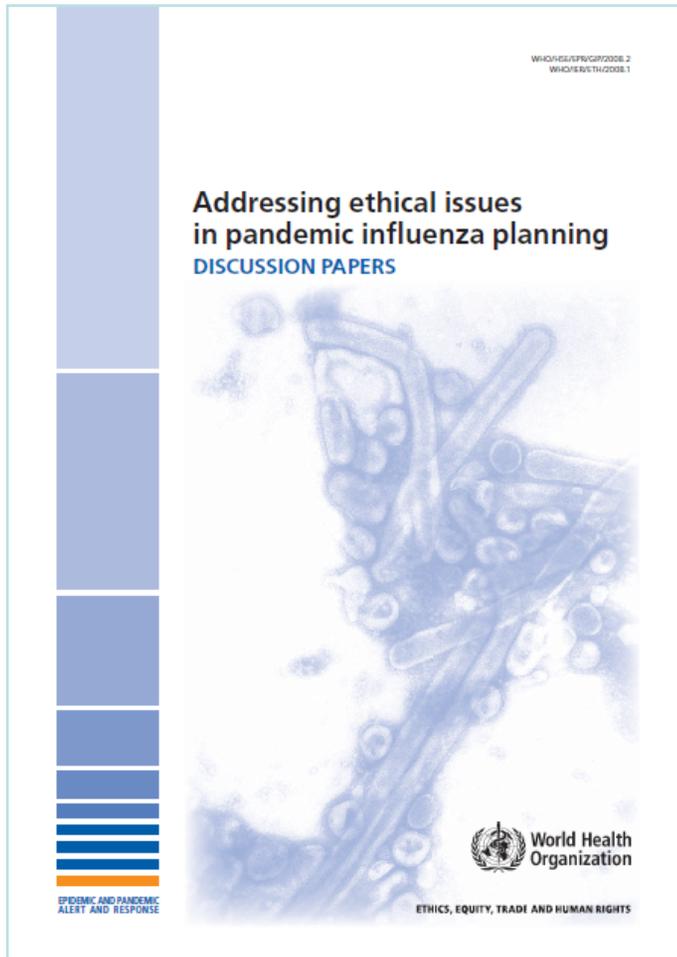
# Outline

1. Background: ethics for preparedness plans  
... from theory to practice ...
2. Indigenous populations in South America - Not only for surveillance

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# WHO Ethical Framework (2007)



# Areas of concern (2007)

1. Equitable access to therapeutic and prophylactic measures
2. Isolation, quarantine, border control and social-distancing measures
3. Role and obligations of health-care workers during an influenza pandemic
4. Pandemic influenza planning and response: transnational issues for governments

# Uncertain issues (2009)

## Evidences needed

- Vulnerable groups
- Virulence / Lethality of the virus
- Efficacy of antiviral treatment
- Availability of an effective vaccine

# Areas of concern & regional response

(2009)

## Dealing with uncertainty

1. Equitable access to therapeutic and prophylactic measures
2. Isolation, quarantine, border control and social-distancing measures
3. Role and obligations of health-care workers during an influenza pandemic
4. Pandemic influenza planning and response: transnational issues for governments

1. Treatment / clinical management guidelines
2. Not recommended – voluntary quarantine
3. Infection prevention and control: occupational health
4. International Health Regulations framework

# National Plans

- Ethic was not explicitly considered in the development of national preparedness plans for LAC countries (2007/2008)
- Countries are requesting guidance on how to incorporate ethic in their response plans

# Controversial issues

## Influenza Pandemic 2009

- Prophylaxis for HCWs
- Definition of:
  - Vaccine priority groups
  - Antiviral treatment priority groups
- Admission and management at ICUs

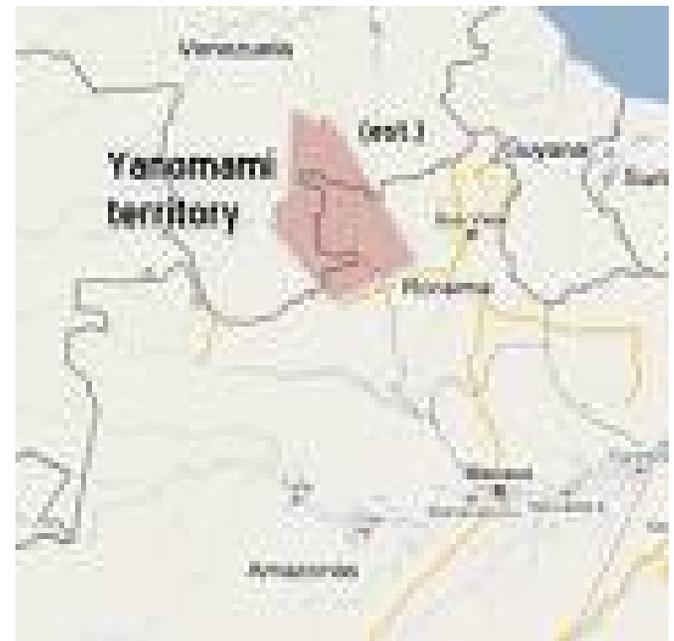
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# Pandemic flu outbreak in the Yanomami population

Oct 30, 2009

- Yanomami: 32,000 pop.
  - ILI: 1,150
  - Pneumonia: 155
  - Deaths: 5
- Actions
  - Coordination of bilateral response
  - Support regarding oseltamivir supply and vaccine



# Challenges (2010)

- Addressing vulnerable populations in national plans (i.e. indigenous and prisoners)
- Sub-regional plans
  - National based on sub-regional plans



**Many thanks**



**Pan American  
Health  
Organization**



*Regional Office of the  
World Health Organization*