

DEFINITION OF DORSCON-FLU ALERT CODES

1. The DORSCON Alert codes are a mechanism for risk management as they describe the risk of acquiring an infectious disease. It provides a guide for planning and execution in the event of an influenza pandemic. However, if the progression of the disease is very fast, it may not be operationally feasible to have a clear, sequentially graduated response.

a. **Alert GREEN Level 0 (WHO Phase 1).** This is a situation where the public health threat to Singapore is low because there are no novel influenza virus outbreaks anywhere in the world.

b. **Alert GREEN Level 1 (WHO Phase 2 - 3).** At this level of alert, there should be global concern including the WHO about the possible emergence of a novel virus resulting from the outbreak of HPAI in animals. There may be isolated external or local cases of animal-to-human spread, but no human-to-human spread, or at most rare instances of spread to a very close and prolonged contact. The threat of human-to-human infection remains low. Hence in Alert GREEN, the disease, if any, is basically limited to animals.

c. **Alert YELLOW (WHO Phase 4).** This refers to a situation where there are inefficient human-to-human transmissions of influenza caused by a novel virus requiring close and sustained contact to an index case. Further spread can be prevented through public health measures to isolate cases and quarantine contacts. The risk of import into Singapore is elevated. Isolated imported cases may occur but there is no sustained transmission.

d. **Alert ORANGE (WHO Phase 5).** Globally and/or locally, larger cluster(s) but human-to-human spread is still localized suggesting that virus is becoming increasingly better adapted to humans but may not yet be fully transmissible, requiring close contact with an index case (substantial pandemic risk). In most instances, there will be dead end transmissions. But in some instances, a cluster of cases may develop from an index case.

e. **Alert RED (WHO Phase 6).** A pandemic is underway. The virus is fully transmissible between humans. Import into Singapore is inevitable. Sources of infection are undefined and there is a high risk of acquiring the disease from the community once it spreads to Singapore.

f. **Alert BLACK (WHO Phase 6).** Alert BLACK is sounded when there are high rates of severe disease and deaths. The healthcare and other social support systems are overwhelmed by the pandemic. Economic activities are severely disrupted.