



Hazard Factsheet: Biological emergency (Outbreaks, Epidemics, Pandemics)



Auckland
Emergency
Management

- A pandemic is an outbreak of an infectious disease that spreads across a very large rohe/region, multiple countries, or worldwide.
- Outbreaks and epidemics affect local areas and rohe/regions. The direct impact on human life can be immense, with vulnerable populations, including older people and those with underlying health conditions, being particularly at risk. Epidemics among animals, such as Foot and Mouth Disease, can also affect people's activities.
- The risk and impacts of a pandemic or large epidemic extend beyond the immediate health crisis. Many services like education, transport, work, health care and community services are disrupted.
- Social interactions are limited or strained, with physical distancing measures and lockdowns impacting social gatherings, cultural events, and everyday life.
- The Ministry of Health is the lead agency for human pandemics. Auckland Emergency Management assists in providing regional inter-agency coordination of welfare support.

During an outbreak, epidemic or pandemic

In a pandemic you may need to stay at whare/home because:

- you are sick
- you are caring for sick whānau/family
- community actions to prevent spread of the infection are needed.

Hygiene – keeping clean:

- Washing and drying your hands properly for at least 20 seconds with soap or an alcohol-based rub. Drying hands well is important. Wash and dry hands after coughing, sneezing, blowing your nose, wiping children's noses, visiting the toilet, or looking after sick people.
- Keep your coughs and sneezes covered. Put tissues straight into a covered, lined rubbish bin or a plastic bag.
- Try to stay a metre away from sick people to reduce the spread of infection. Consider having those who are unwell stay in one part of the house if practical and be cared for by a single person.
- Ensure there is good ventilation to any areas where people are unwell.

Stay informed with key health information on the National Public Health Service website:
arphs.health.nz and adhb.health.nz

