



Functioning Economies in Times of Pandemic APEC Guidelines



September 2007 | Health Task Force

Functioning Economies in Times of Pandemic APEC Guidelines. The World Health Organization has reported that the world is moving closer to an influenza pandemic. While it is impossible to predict when a pandemic will occur, there is much that can be done to prepare. APEC members recognise that to prepare for, respond to and recover from a significant global human influenza pandemic requires an integrated, inter-government, multi-sector and multi-phase approach. This document provides guidelines for managing and minimising these impacts.



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The process of globalisation and economic integration, which delivers so many benefits to the region, also carries with it an amplified capacity for the transmission of disease. The increasing volume of international flows of goods and people creates challenges for governments and economies in traditional disease control measures such as quarantine systems and border controls. Acknowledging these challenges highlights the importance of improving regional capacity and ensuring appropriate emergency management and response planning.

Because all economies will be affected, the emerging human health, social and economic concerns of any human influenza pandemic demands that preparedness, response and recovery measures be viewed as global public goods, which require international engagement and cooperation. APEC commits to this initiative that addresses the multi-sector and pandemic phase issues and will guide and enable individual and collective action by APEC members.

These guidelines have been prepared within the APEC framework. They provide a model to assist economies to develop systems to facilitate the functioning of APEC member economies in the event of a pandemic involving potential mass casualties.

As a unique forum, representing those most likely to be first affected by a human influenza pandemic, APEC is well placed to promote and raise awareness of necessary action within and among our member economies.

These guidelines are structured around seven key areas which are pivotal to maintaining functioning economies in times of pandemic:

- 1. Integrated Planning and Preparedness**
- 2. Coordination and Cooperation**
- 3. Leadership and Governance**
- 4. Communication and Information**
- 5. Essential Services and Vital Supplies**
- 6. Financial Systems**
- 7. Movement Between and Within Economies**

The seven key areas provide a framework to guide the development of a comprehensive approach to manage and support APEC economies and their business sectors in times of pandemic; encouraging investor and consumer confidence, and economic and community recovery and growth in the post pandemic phase.

The seven key areas identified form the following series of Actions for APEC Economies to assist APEC member economies maintain functioning economies in the event of a pandemic.

1. Integrated Planning and Preparedness Actions for APEC Economies:

- Work towards “preventative action” as a priority initiative, including improving regional capacity on surveillance and detection, infection control, containment, and communication strategies as well as reviewing and reinforcing relevant laws.
- Develop an integrated pandemic preparedness plan that:
 - Addresses each of the World Health Organisation (WHO) phases of a pandemic and identifies the actions and responsible persons for each phase of a pandemic¹;
 - Encourages self help and self reliance at all levels within the economy;
 - Has a comprehensive and coordinated health response element;
- Goes beyond health and addresses potential impacts on macro and household economics, business, trade, critical infrastructure, and social and community arrangements;
- Accommodates the economy’s unique culture, systems, institutions and arrangements including all levels of government and governance, economy, ownership of institutions, essential services and infrastructure, vital supplies, trading arrangements, law and regulations, emergency response arrangements, and the role of government, family and community in emergencies and social support, considering geographic challenges; and
- Ensures existing intra-economy and inter-economy governance, administrative, legislative and regulatory arrangements will not act as barriers to the effective implementation of the plan and/or has arrangements in place to remove such barriers when a pandemic is declared.

¹WHO/CDS/CSR/GIP/2005.5, WHO global influenza preparedness plan: The role of WHO and recommendations for national measures before and during pandemics, © World Health Organization 2005 available at: http://www.who.int/csr/resources/publications/influenza/WHO_CDS_CSR_GIP_2005_5/en/index.html





APEC is well placed to promote and raise awareness of necessary action within and among our member economies



An integrated pandemic preparedness plan

2. Coordination and Cooperation Actions for APEC Economies:

- Provide emergency assistance to another APEC economy, and receive emergency assistance from another APEC economy, where necessary and based on assessed needs, to ensure the ongoing essentials of daily life and viability of economies where outbreaks occur.
- Individual APEC economies experiencing particular difficulties, seek assistance from APEC partners where necessary and by agreement, in such areas as:
 - The containment of any outbreak at source by sharing resources where available and appropriate, in line with WHO requirements, including: antivirals and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE); influenza test kits and technical expertise;
 - Mobilising and admitting international experts into affected APEC economies to undertake outbreak response and containment including epidemiological studies on pathogenicity, clinical effects, at-risk groups and antiviral resistance;
 - The immediate dissemination of results to APEC; timely sharing of virus isolates with the WHO Global Influenza Surveillance Network (GISN) and international collaboration to develop candidate vaccine trials (with public liability, efficacy and safety issues addressed); vaccine procurement plans, the extension of manufacturing capacity and international cooperation in sharing vaccine supplies; and work closely with WHO to access centrally stockpiled antiviral drugs to deal with outbreaks;



– Working towards keeping the following operational wherever possible and appropriate: essential services-infrastructure (eg health, power/energy, water, food suppliers, fuel (private and public owned), essential production (eg food, medicines, vital supplies to other economies), key institutions (eg government, banking, markets, trade and movement ports); and

– In the event of significant disruption to food production and/or distribution, emergency food assistance and facilitation by APEC of regional and international assistance consistent with its role.



To ensure the ongoing essentials of daily life and viability of economies where outbreaks occur

- Consolidate cooperation on avian influenza and emergency preparedness and the protection of trade and economic processes.
- Participate in simulation exercises to help identify any gaps or shortfalls in current planning arrangements.
- Work towards identifying and consulting with the business community on the implications for business within their individual economy's pandemic preparedness plan.



3. Leadership and Governance Actions for APEC Economies:

- Develop and include governance continuity plans in integrated preparedness plans to ensure ongoing operations of key functions of governance. Such plans could include planned extraordinary action and address issues such as crisis and lottery leadership to reduce potential risks and mitigate potential economic and trade losses that might arise due to loss of confidence in governance.
- Develop collaborative plans with neighbouring economies regarding border management to minimise economic and social disruptions while addressing public health concerns.
- Develop additional protections/ risk management strategies, as appropriate to the local situation, against corrupt practices which could emerge in an influenza pandemic, to protect good governance and confidence in government.

Minimise economic and social disruptions while addressing public health concerns



4. Communication and Information Actions for APEC Economies:

- Give priority to the development of comprehensive and transparent information and risk communication strategies between agencies as part of integrated pandemic preparedness plans. Information and communication plans would address each of the WHO pandemic phases.
- Coordinate clear, forthright, and consistent messages and statements to be communicated to citizens, media, international organisations and embassies in the host country, about the threat and the planned response.
- Support the sharing and transparency of information by strengthening the APEC Secretariat and APEC processes, boosting resources for analysis and capacity building and agreeing that the APEC Secretariat would, on behalf of members, publish daily, or more frequently, updates on the APEC website on matters relevant to APEC and in a way that complements and is consistent with the role of the WHO and other international bodies.
- Harness and improve current emergency mass casualty communication networks both between and within economies, including those developed by the APEC Taskforce on Emergency Preparedness (TFEP).
- Take appropriate steps to maintain the business continuity and security of intra-economy and inter-economy information and communication technology system/s, including strengthening business, government and local area networks, to prepare for significant surges in demand, and to prepare for opportunistic criminal activity.



5. Essential Services and Vital Supplier Actions for APEC Economies:

- Identify essential businesses, services and infrastructure and plan maintenance action for them to enable economies to effectively respond to, and recover from, a pandemic.
- Provide, if capable, and receive assistance based on assessed needs where necessary and possible, to ensure ongoing operations of essential services.
- Include in essential services maintenance plans:
 - Detailed business continuity plans that specify vital suppliers;
 - Measures to provide protection for front-line staff at high risk of exposure to the virus;
- Measures to provide essential service staff with appropriate social supports; and
- If rationing of essential supplies is necessary, giving priority to essential services according to Government determined, and publicly communicated plans as appropriate to the individual economy.
- Put in place comprehensive security and law enforcement plans to protect against potential deliberate disruption, theft, fraud, corrupt practices, anti-social demonstrations/riots and the hijacking of, attacks on, or illegal trade in essential services/ businesses which could emerge during an influenza pandemic.



6. Financial Systems Actions for APEC Economies:

- Maintain operations in banking and financial institutions and services, to provide and receive assistance based on assessed needs to ensure the ongoing viability and operations of APEC financial systems.

Currency	Buying		Selling
	Notes	T/C	Notes
USA USD	34.01	34.58	35.08
EURO EUR	46.66	46.92	47.81
ENGLAND GBP	68.37	69.07	70.31
JAPAN JPY	0.2869	0.2899	0.2958
SINGAPORE SGD	22.63	22.71	23.32
HONG KONG HKD	4.34	4.36	4.52
AUSTRALIA AUD	28.44	28.74	29.36
NEW ZEALAND NZD	25.41	25.59	26.57
SWITZERLAND CHF	28.24	28.58	29.08
SWEDEN SEK	4.91	5.05	5.21
DENMARK DKK	6.06	6.26	6.42
CANADA CAD	30.08	30.42	31.11
NORWAY NOK	5.58	5.76	5.91
BRUNEI BRD	21.85	-	23.32
INDONESIA IDR	0.0024	-	0.0048
MALAYSIA MYR	8.46	-	10.70
CHINA CNY	3.59	-	4.87
KOREA KRW	0.029	-	0.043
TAIWAN TWD	0.86	-	1.16
U A E AED	7.54	-	9.99
BAHRAIN BHD	61.80	-	93.80
OMAN OMR	60.04	-	92.25
QATAR QAR	7.45	-	10.00
SAUDI ARAB SAR	7.37	-	9.98

- Work closely with global institutions appropriate to the situation, including the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Financial Stability Forum, to reduce potential risks and mitigate potential human, economic and trade losses that might arise due to disruption of financial systems.
- Encourage central banks, finance ministries and prudential regulators to conduct testing of systemic resilience to pandemic economic risks, and monitor and oversee the development of business continuity plans for key systems (both in the payments system and the securities markets) and financial sector entities to ensure continued payments, clearing, settlement, cash flow and trading of financial systems during a pandemic.
- Develop additional protections against disruption to information and communication technology systems, acts of fraud or corrupt practices to protect good governance and the integrity of the financial systems and institutions during an influenza pandemic.

Monitor and oversee the development of business continuity plans for key systems

7. Movement Between and Within Economies Actions for APEC Economies:

- Take steps to ensure that border control, quarantining, surveillance and screening measures are designed to comprehensively address containment and infection issues while limiting the impact on trade in most goods and services.
- In line with the International Health Regulations 2005, and WTO Agreements, to prevent, protect against, control and provide a public health response to the international spread of disease in ways that are restricted to public health risks, and which avoid unnecessary interference with international traffic and trade.
- Take steps to ensure that trade in most goods continues during a pandemic by taking planned action to minimise staffing absences in and disruption to transport, air and sea ports, loading and unloading facilities, and allied essential services and vital suppliers.
- Increase and exchange knowledge regarding electronic trade facilities, to ensure the ongoing viability and operations of existing APEC transport and trade arrangements, including electronic systems for corporate governance, trading and goods pricing transparency and fraud protection.
- Provide and receive assistance where necessary to ensure the ongoing viability and operations of existing APEC transport and trade arrangements, subject to where restrictions have otherwise been agreed.





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