



**MINISTRY OF HEALTH**  
SINGAPORE

# Analysis of Situation and The Way Forward

**Ministry of Health**  
**6 May 09**

# Strategic Objectives of Influenza Pandemic Plan

1. Reduce morbidity and mortality by
  - Delay the entry and spread of influenza
  - Appropriate treatment of cases
3. Maintain essential services in Singapore to limit social and economic disruptions

# DORSCON Framework

- Allows us to respond immediately to outbreaks and to ramp up measures accordingly
- Comprise:
  - Community measures
  - Measures in healthcare settings
  - Border Health controls
- Exercised regularly and familiar to public

# Singapore DORSCON vs WHO Pandemic Phases

- Current WHO Phases 1 – 6 describe spread of disease across the world. Does not take into account disease severity.
- Our DORSCON levels are based on character of the virus
  - Transmissibility (how easily it spreads)
  - Virulence (severity of illness caused by virus)

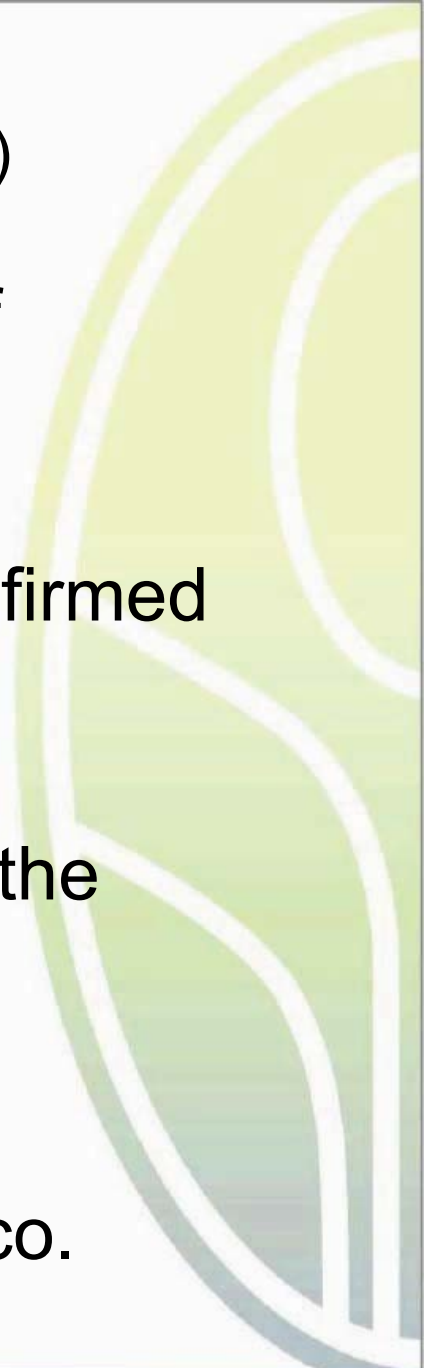
## Implication:

Our DORSCON levels need not change in tandem with WHO's phases.

# Status (Thursday 30 Apr 09)

- WHO raised pandemic alert level from 4 to 5, indicating that pandemic was imminent.
- On 29 Apr 09, the reported number of suspected swine flu deaths in Mexico rose to 159, with 2,498 more people thought to be infected. More than 1300 people remained in hospitals.  
[Case Fatality Ratio ~ 6%]
- On 30 Apr 09, we went to DORSCON Orange.

# Global Status (Wed 6 May 09)

- 1490 confirmed cases and 30 deaths of influenza A(H1N1) had been reported.
  - A total of 21 countries had reported confirmed cases of influenza A(H1N1).
  - Mexico, United States and Canada are the most affected countries, with sustained community-level spread.
  - Only 2 deaths reported outside of Mexico.
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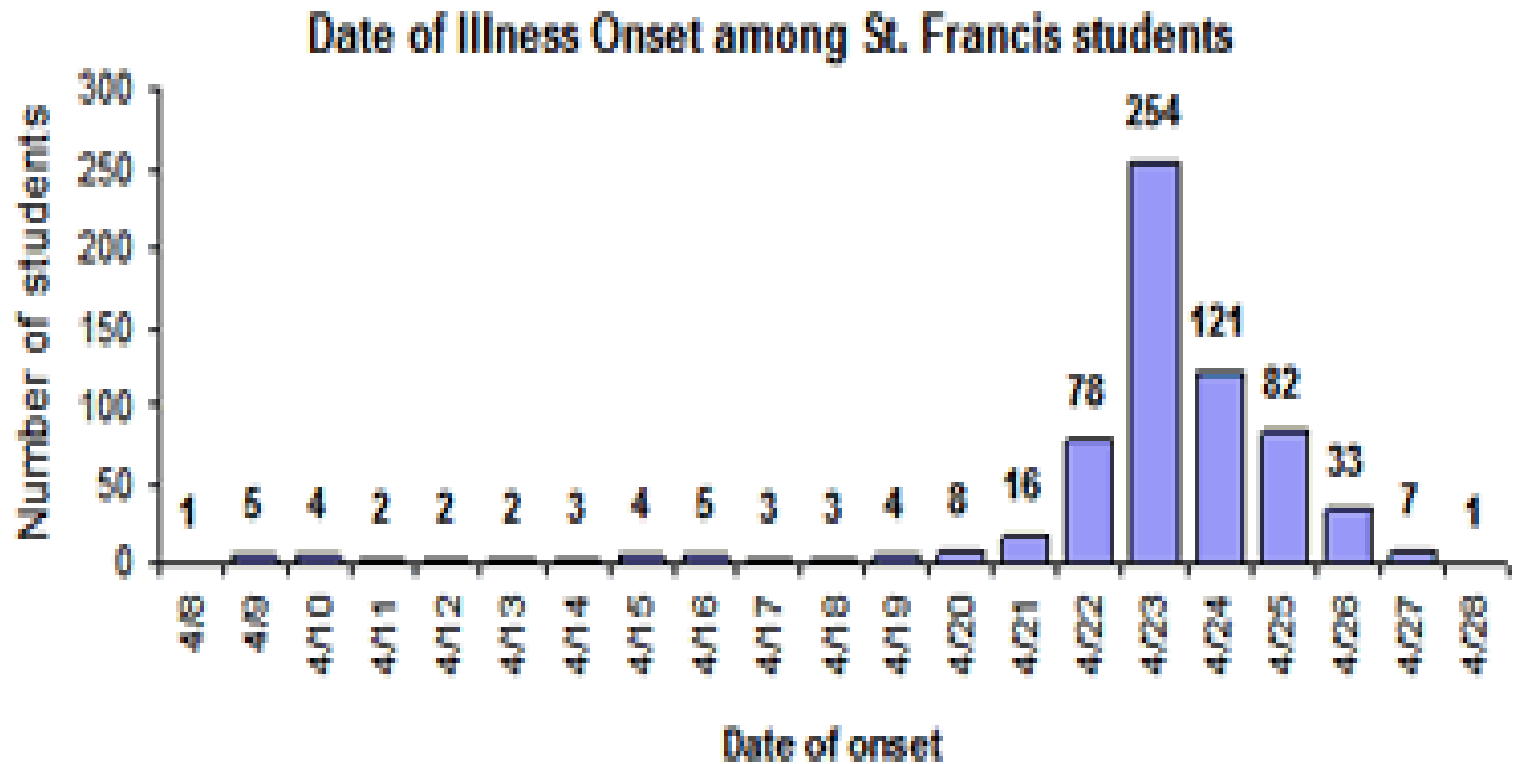
# Review of Local Situation

- Current Status : ORANGE alert
- Situation assessment
  - No confirmed or probable cases in Singapore
- What have we achieved over past 10 days
  - **Delayed** entry of Influenza H1N1-2009
  - Learnt more about disease to develop more targeted response.
  - Raised awareness in the population of the disease and the need for good hygiene habits.
  - Reaffirmed national preparedness.

# Assessment of disease severity

- Influenza A (H1N1-2009) virus appears to be milder than originally feared.
  - Mexico
    - Initial reports of case fatality rate in Mexico (6%)
    - More recent reports : Significant underreporting of mild cases; better reporting would increase the denominator and lower the CFR. Reclassification of number of deaths caused by H1N1
  - 125 confirmed cases outside North America. No severe cases or deaths.
  - In the most well-characterized study so far, an analysis of the New York City cases associated with the high school outbreak showed that out of more than 1000 cases affected, there were no severe cases needing hospitalization.

# Epidemic curve – Outbreak associated with NYC high school



*No information was available on date of illness onset for 21 students.*



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Thank You