

CDC's Division of Global Migration and Quarantine



Accessible version: <https://www.cdc.gov/ncezid/dgmaq/focus-areas/ciic.html>

Community Interventions for Infection Control

Who We Are

The Division of Global Migration and Quarantine's Community Interventions for Infection Control Unit (CI-ICU) is the home for science, policy, and communications related to nonpharmaceutical interventions (NPIs) for infectious disease control.

NPIs are actions, apart from getting vaccinated and taking medicine, that people and communities can take to help slow the spread of infectious diseases like [pandemic flu](#). NPIs also are known as community mitigation strategies and include strategies like handwashing, staying home when ill, cleaning frequently touched surfaces, keeping distance from others, and wearing a mask or respirator.

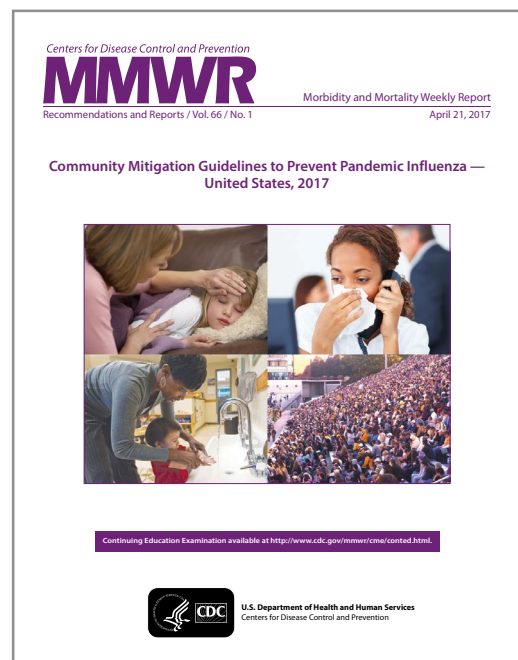
How We Work Together

CI-ICU collaborates with partners and stakeholders to promote NPI implementation in key community settings, including schools, workplaces, and mass gatherings. The unit works with federal, state, and local government partners on intersectoral NPI policy issues and with universities and business organizations on NPI research.

What We Do

CI-ICU's mission is to prevent and reduce the spread of infectious diseases in communities by empowering people and communities to take action and use evidence-based knowledge of NPIs.

CI-ICU conducts and coordinates NPI research; develops NPI guidance, communication, education, and training materials; and encourages the adoption of policies that support NPI recommendations.



Why It's Important

NPIs will be our first line of defense to help slow the spread of pandemic flu, before a pandemic vaccine is available.

NPIs that are recommended at all times include personal and environmental actions:

- staying home when sick,
- covering coughs and sneezes,
- washing hands often, and
- routinely cleaning frequently touched surfaces.

A yearly flu vaccine also is recommended.

When a flu pandemic occurs, public health officials may recommend certain additional NPIs, which could include certain community-level measures such as temporary school dismissals and mass gathering postponements, modifications, or cancellations. NPIs are most effective when used together in a layered approach.

NPIs are especially important in community settings where people are in close contact with one another, like schools, workplaces, and public events. Research has shown that NPIs can help slow the spread of pandemic flu and other infectious diseases.



Program in Action

The unit released pre-pandemic planning guidelines for influenza—[Community Mitigation Guidelines to Prevent Pandemic Influenza— United States, 2017](#)—and educational materials to help partners and stakeholders plan for and respond to flu pandemics by using NPIs.

For more information and access to NPI guidelines, influenza pre-pandemic planning guides, communication materials, and research articles, visit www.cdc.gov/npi.



**Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention**
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www.cdc.gov/migrationhealth