

*Community Mitigation Measures  
Decision-Making Scenario: Caribbean*



***SIMULATION EXERCISE***

# Objectives

- Practice the Key Decisions for Implementing Community Mitigation Measures
- Identify resources and obstacles in implementing Community Mitigation Strategies
- Discuss challenges in integrating community actions and communicating risks and behavior change messages

# Overview

- Part I: Background Information and roles
- Part II: Preparation in small groups
- Part III: Interaction with different stakeholders
- Part IV: Press conference
- Part V: Analysis and reflections in small groups using guiding questions
- Part VI: Plenary discussion

## ***Part # 1 - Background Information***

### ***Presentation of Case Scenario & Roles Assignment***



40 min

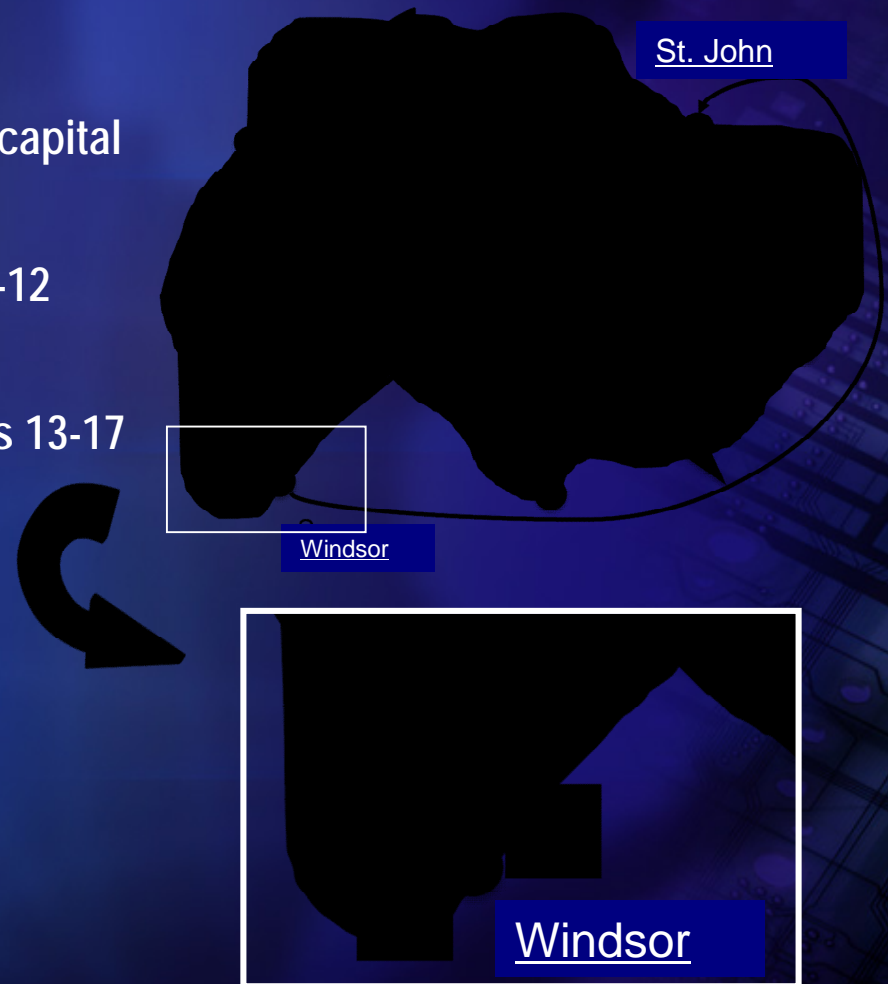
# Azul Island

- Capital
- Town
- Roads
- Regional Hospital
- Local hospital
- Seaport
- Airport
- Fishing



## Background: Azul Island

- Has 150,000 residents
- 12-hour drive or 15 hours by boat from the capital St. John
- 8 primary schools (35,000 students, ages 5-12 years)
- 5 secondary schools (18,000 students, ages 13-17 years)
- Chief economic industry is fishing
- 40% of the workforce are fishermen
- Market is open five days per week





## Background: Windsor Health Care Facilities

- § Three local hospitals
  - § Total of 100 beds
  - § 10% are empty
- § 8 intensive care unit beds
- § No advanced medical care or equipment is available
- § Very sick patients must be moved to the main hospital in St. John
- § Ten primary health care units
  - § Community Health Volunteers



## Background: Windsor Community Groups

- q Ministry of Health – local and national level
- q Local Government
- q Faith-based organizations network
- q Local Media
  - § Two Local Radio stations
  - § Two Local Newspapers
  - § One National Public TV station
- q Civil society Organizations (Schools, Parent and Teachers Association, others)



## Background: Global Situation

- q World Health Organization (WHO) announced new strain of the H5N1 avian influenza virus
- q New virus is spreading globally
- q WHO has raised the Pandemic Alert Level to Phase 6 and has officially declared a pandemic on January 10, 2011
  - § Pandemic is causing severe illness
  - § Spreading between people and causing illness in chickens
  - § Thousands of deaths worldwide
  - § Symptoms include fever, cough, and difficulty breathing

## **SIMULATION DATA - FOR EXERCISE USE ONLY**

**Age-Group, Population at Risk, Attack Rate, # Ill Persons, Case Fatality Rate and # People Who Have Died from the Novel H5N1 Influenza Pandemic in Calapamo, South America, December 2010 – January 2011**

| <b>Age Group</b> | <b>Population at Risk</b> | <b>Attack Rate</b> | <b># Ill</b>  | <b>Case Fatality Rate</b> | <b># Dead</b> |
|------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|---------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| <b>0-18</b>      | <b>13,500</b>             | <b>30%</b>         | <b>4,050</b>  | <b>1.40%</b>              | <b>57</b>     |
| <b>19-64</b>     | <b>35,100</b>             | <b>20%</b>         | <b>7,020</b>  | <b>1.10%</b>              | <b>77</b>     |
| <b>65+</b>       | <b>5,400</b>              | <b>5%</b>          | <b>270</b>    | <b>0.25%</b>              | <b>1</b>      |
| <b>Total</b>     | <b>54,000</b>             | <b>21%</b>         | <b>11,340</b> | <b>1.19%</b>              | <b>135</b>    |

**SIMULATION DATA - FOR EXERCISE USE ONLY**

## Background: Situation in Windsor

- o An eight year old girl developed severe respiratory failure after two days with symptoms of fever, cough, headache and vomiting. The girl was taken to Mount Sinai local hospital, however, due to the severity of symptoms, died yesterday.

## Background: Role Assignment

|                                                         |   |   |
|---------------------------------------------------------|---|---|
| • 1 Governor + 1 Advisor                                |   | 2 |
| • National Health authorities                           |   | 4 |
| • Primary Health Care team (1 doctor + 1 nurse + 2 CHW) | 4 |   |
| • Local authorities (1 mayor + 1 health secretariat)    | 2 |   |
| • Religious leaders                                     |   | 2 |
| • Middle School (1 Principal + 1 teacher)               | 2 |   |
| • Parents and Teachers Association (4 members)          | 4 |   |
| • Yellow press                                          | 2 |   |
| • Independent press                                     |   | 2 |
| • National TV producer (pro-government)                 | 2 |   |
| • Local radio (pro-governor)                            |   | 2 |

## Windsor Today

- At this time, there is no confirmed cause of death, although it is suspected that may be due to H5N1.
- The national and local media have become interested after certain suspected cases have been reported in the capital.
- There is anxiety among the inhabitants.



## Windsor Now .....



The Governor of Windsor is concerned about the potential political consequences that may result from this crisis.

Some years ago, the Permanent Secretary was fired amid media criticism and public discontent for the government's lack of leadership in response to a Dengue outbreak last year.

The Governor is visiting Windsor today to assess the situation for her/himself. Always surrounded by knowledgeable advisors, s/he has announced a press conference with local and international media right after lunch.

His/Her political future is at stake.

*What kind of information does s/he need? Who is the audience? What key messages does s/he want for the audience to get from the press conference?*



## Windsor Now .....



The national authorities have not issued any official statement nor Windsor health authorities who are awaiting the laboratory results.

Tomorrow the infectious agent causing the death of the child will be known, however the clinical suspicion is that it is an H5N1.

*What are the recommended measures by the health authorities? What role are they going to play in relation to the other groups?*

## Windsor Now .....



The local health teams, under the influence of the Medical Association, are concerned that the international and national exaggerated reaction to another kind of "mild flu" may overwhelm primary care services, diverting scarce health resources.

Also they are concerned that healthy, anxious individuals will come to the hospital and may increase the risk of transmitting infectious diseases to patients with chronic diseases while seeking routine health care services.

*Do the primary health care teams have any role to play or decisions to make? Which ones? How to they plan to achieve their goals?*

## Windsor Now .....



Local authorities are worried about the possibility that this might be the beginning of an outbreak of the avian influenza H5N1 pandemic virus and need to decide what actions should be taken at this early stage.

The preparations around the Carnival have already started. However, just today several travel agencies have started to switch destinations while expressing concerns that the Carnival may be downplayed or even cancelled this year for public health reasons.

*Where does the local government stand today in front of the governor and the media speaking on behalf of the tourist resorts, concerned residents and their local traditions? What is to be done or said today? How decisions will be made in the days to come?*

## Windsor Now .....



The highly influential faith-based network has prepared for months for the Carnival. Some believe that a new plague is on their way to signal a message to those hiding away from the church.

*In light of the existing evidence, are the church leaders going to call the religious community to congregate and pray harder than ever before or to stay away from any mass gathering?*



## Windsor Now .....



The Principal of the Windsor Middle School -attended by the girl who died- is now facing more concerns from parents and teachers as the news spread that eight students have similar flu-like symptoms than the girl who died.

Because of the proximity to the Carnival, the school break is only a couple of weeks away. This is the time when mid-term exams are conducted.

*Is the school Principal going to call for early school closing this year? What criteria will the school use to decide when and wheaten to close the school? Are there any other measures to be considered today?*

## Windsor Now .....



Parents and students are scared and devastated because of what happened to their classmate. "This can happen to anyone" they say. There are rumors of parents who are not planning to send their kids to school tomorrow. However, most parents are confused looking for answers. The PTA is planning to visit the school early in the morning to talk to the school Principal.

*What questions do they want to ask to the Principal?  
You need to decide what to do to protect your child and the rest of the school children.*



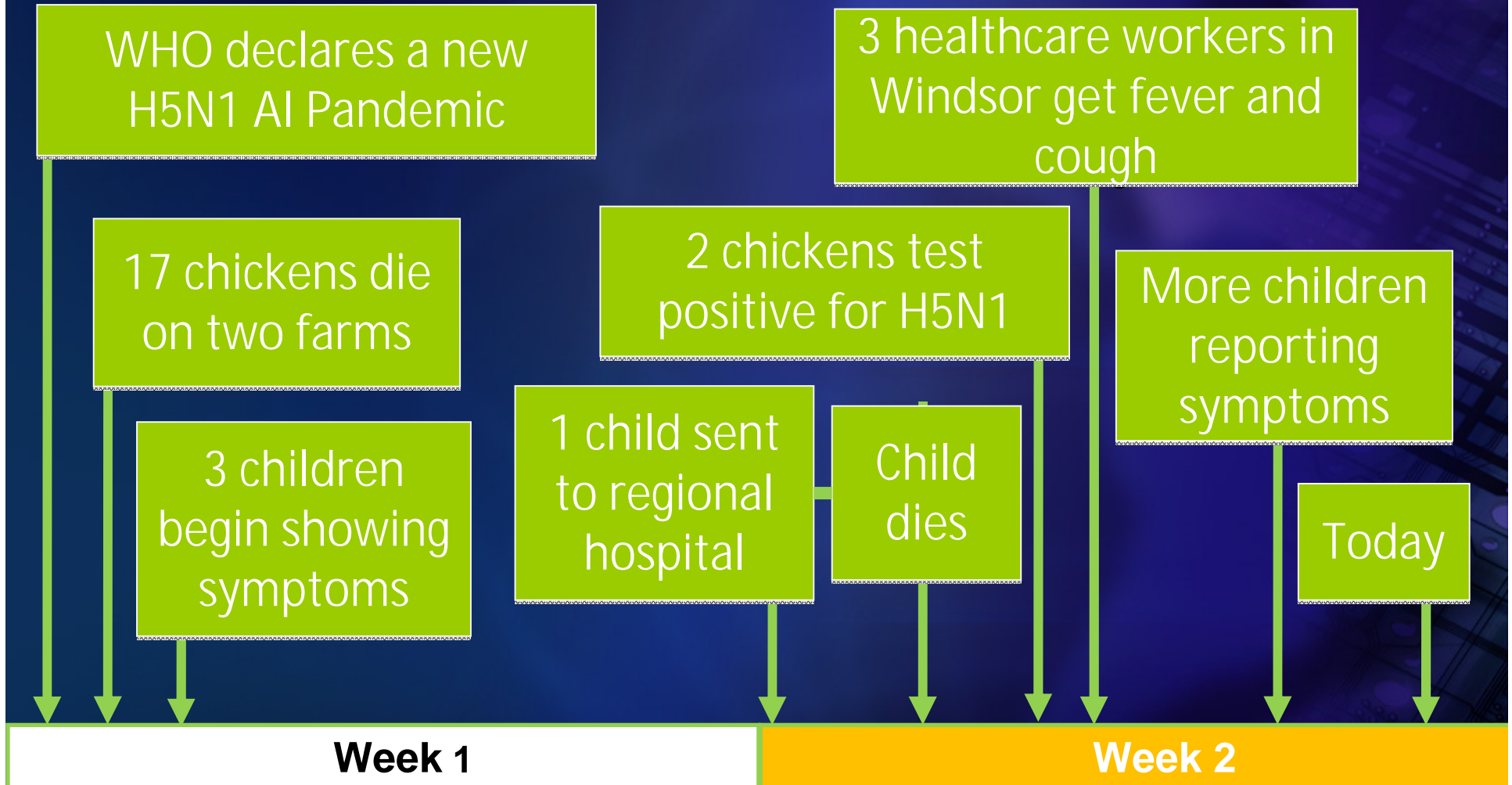
## Windsor Now .....



The radio, print, and television media have 30 minutes before attending a press conference organized by the Governor of Windsor to address concerns about the outbreak.

*What are the critical pieces of information you would like to get your rating? What sources of information are you going to use to get what you want? What questions are you going to ask at the press conference?*

# Background: Timeline



## ***Part # 2 – Preparation in Small Groups***

- § *What information do you need to make a decision?  
Who would you like to talk from the other groups for  
deciding what community mitigation measures need to  
be implemented?*
- § *What would you do? For each group, and based on  
the information collected from the other groups, what  
key decisions would you make?*

Community  
Mitigation  
Measures



30 min

## ***Part # 3 – Free Interaction***



40 min





## ***Part # 4 – Press Conference***



40 min

## ***Part # 5 – Analysis in Small Groups***



15 min



## ***Part # 6 – Plenary Discussion***



15 min