

## What is the difference between seasonal and pandemic influenza?

<b>Seasonal influenza:</b>	<b>Pandemic influenza:</b>
<i>Human viral respiratory infection</i>	<i>Global outbreak of new strain of human influenza virus</i>
<i>Self-limiting, but can be serious and fatal in the elderly and the very young</i>	<i>Causes increased illness and death worldwide</i>
<i>Causes an estimated 250,000-500,000 deaths each year</i>	<i>Rare event; has occurred every 11-42 years over the past two centuries; could cause millions of deaths</i>
<i>Occurs seasonally every year; occurs in winter in temperate areas</i>	<i>Three pandemics in the past 100 years: 1968, 1957 and 1918</i>
<i>Routine vaccine available</i>	<i>Past three pandemics are believed to have been caused by avian viruses that became human viruses. Vaccine can only be developed once we know the strain of the virus</i>

Source: UN/CDC/WTO