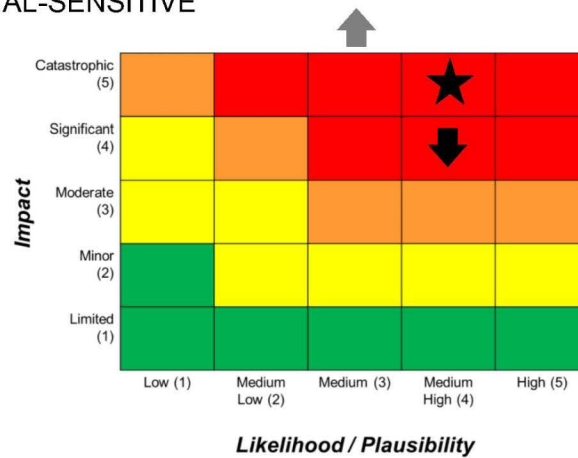


Disease –**Pandemic Influenza**

H23 (DH)

Overall Assessment = Very High**Overall Impact Score = 5****Likelihood/Plausibility Score = 4****Key**

★ Reasonable worst case scenario

↑ Upper range ↓ Lower range

Outcome Description

An influenza pandemic is a worldwide outbreak of influenza, which occurs when a novel flu virus emerges that is different from the circulating influenza strains with sustained human to human transmission. Up to 50% of the workforce may require time off at some stage over the entire period of a pandemic, either because they are ill or caring for someone who is ill, causing significant impact on business continuity in the UK.

Each pandemic is different and the nature of the virus and its impacts cannot be known in advance. Previous pandemics have led to different outcomes. Based on understanding of previous pandemics, a pandemic is likely to occur in one or more waves, possibly weeks and months apart. Each wave may last between 12-15 weeks. Up to half the population could be affected.

All ages may be affected, but until the virus emerges we cannot know which groups will be most at risk. There is no known evidence of association between the rate of transmissibility and severity of infection, meaning it is possible that a new influenza virus could be both highly transmissible and cause severe symptoms. Pandemics significantly more serious than the reasonable worst case are therefore possible.

The reasonable worst case scenario has been developed to inform planning for pandemics and suggests that up to half the UK population may fall ill, which could result in up to 750,000 fatalities. However, it does not take into account the response measures we put in place as the impact of the countermeasures in any given pandemic is difficult to predict as it will depend on the nature of the virus.

Specific Assumptions

The reasonable worst case scenario is based upon the experience and mathematical analysis of influenza pandemics in the 20th and 21st century, the specific assumptions of this scenario are: