



GOBIERNO
FEDERAL



SALUD

MULTI-SECTOR IMPACTS OF PANDEMIC INFLUENZA EXPLORING THE ISSUES

MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE ACROSS INTERNATIONAL LAND BORDERS

Dr. Miguel Betancourt-Cravioto
Director General for Public Health Emergencies
Ministry of Health of Mexico

Barbados, December, 2008



PANDEMIC INFLUENZA AND LAND BORDERS

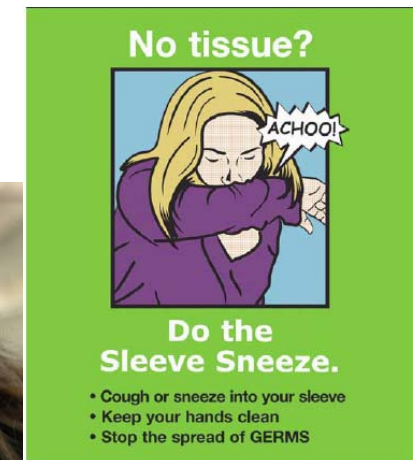
GOBIERNO
FEDERAL



SALUD

INFLUENZA

- One of the most transmissible diseases known to humankind
- Transmissible by direct contact, droplets, through the air
- Individuals can shed the virus from 1 to 4 days **before** onset of symptoms
- Lack of specific signs and symptoms





PANDEMIC INFLUENZA AND LAND BORDERS

GOBIERNO
FEDERAL



SALUD

INFLUENZA PANDEMIC

UNCERTAINTY

CERTAINTY

WHEN?

NO AVAILABLE VACCINE

WHERE?

NOT ENOUGH ANTIVIRALS

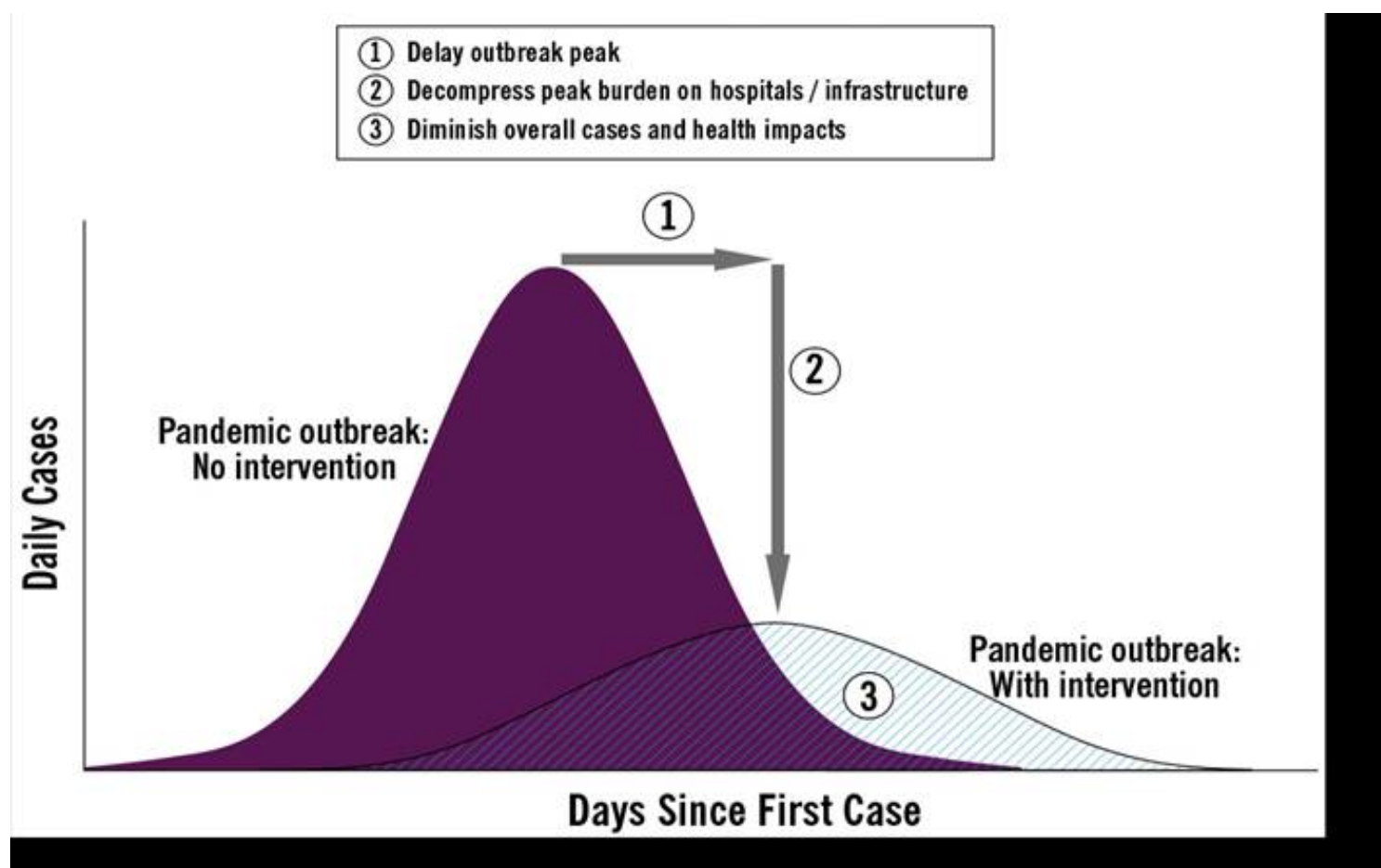
HOW SEVERE?

VACCINE TOO LATE

NOT ENOUGH VACCINE

ANY GOOD NEWS?

YES! COMMUNITY MITIGATION MEASURES





PANDEMIC INFLUENZA AND LAND BORDERS

GOBIERNO
FEDERAL



SALUD

COMMUNITY MITIGATION MEASURES

- **Isolation** of confirmed or probable pandemic influenza cases
- Voluntary home **quarantine** of contacts
- **Closure of school and childcare** programs and social distancing in the community of children and adolescents
- **Social distancing** measures for adults in the community and workplace
 - Cancellation of large **public gatherings**
 - Alteration of **workplace** environments and schedules
 - Institution of workplace leave policies



PANDEMIC INFLUENZA AND LAND BORDERS

GOBIERNO
FEDERAL



SALUD

PLANNING SCENARIO

- 30% to 40% of the population sick
- 50% of the sick will seek medical care
- 6 to 8 weeks of pandemic activity
- Work absenteeism up to 40%
- Community mitigation strategies will increase absenteeism





PANDEMIC INFLUENZA AND LAND BORDERS

GOBIERNO
FEDERAL



SALUD

PANDEMIC INFLUENZA, COMMUNITY MITIGATION AND LAND BORDERS

- **Influenza will not physically damage infrastructure**
- **Weakened systems by the absence of essential personnel**
- **Lack of or diversion of resources**
- **Maintain critical infrastructure and essential systems functioning properly**
- **Mitigate economic impact**



PANDEMIC INFLUENZA AND LAND BORDERS

GOBIERNO
FEDERAL



SALUD

PANDEMIC INFLUENZA, COMMUNITY MITIGATION AND LAND BORDERS

- **Control** of the flow of people, animals and goods
- Main **Stakeholders**: Customs services, Security Forces, Immigration Authorities, Public Health, Agriculture, Veterinary Services
- Regulate **immigration** (legal and illegal)
- Control the **movement** of citizens
- Collect **taxes**
- Prevent **smuggling** of drugs, weapons, endangered species and other illegal or hazardous material
- Control the **spread of human or animal diseases**



PANDEMIC INFLUENZA AND LAND BORDERS

GOBIERNO
FEDERAL



SALUD

BORDER SCREENING

- Establish **common triggers, criteria and protocols** for screening travelers
- Triggers, criteria and protocols should be **balanced against** the necessity to **maintain the flow** of persons, cargo and trade across borders.
- Coordinate **public messaging** to be employed
- Once the pandemic disease is common in all neighbor countries screening at land borders **may no longer be necessary**



PANDEMIC INFLUENZA AND LAND BORDERS

GOBIERNO
FEDERAL



SALUD

PLANNING PROCESS

- Develop a **planning Task Force** with the participation of all relevant stakeholders (Customs, Immigration, Armed Forces, Law Enforcement, Public Health, Agriculture, Foreign Trade, Foreign Affairs, Transportation, Sub-national Governments, Private Sector, etc)
- **Evaluate** impact and usefulness of strategies
- Develop guidelines and provide training on strategies for **personnel protection**
- Establish an **international working group** to develop information exchange strategies



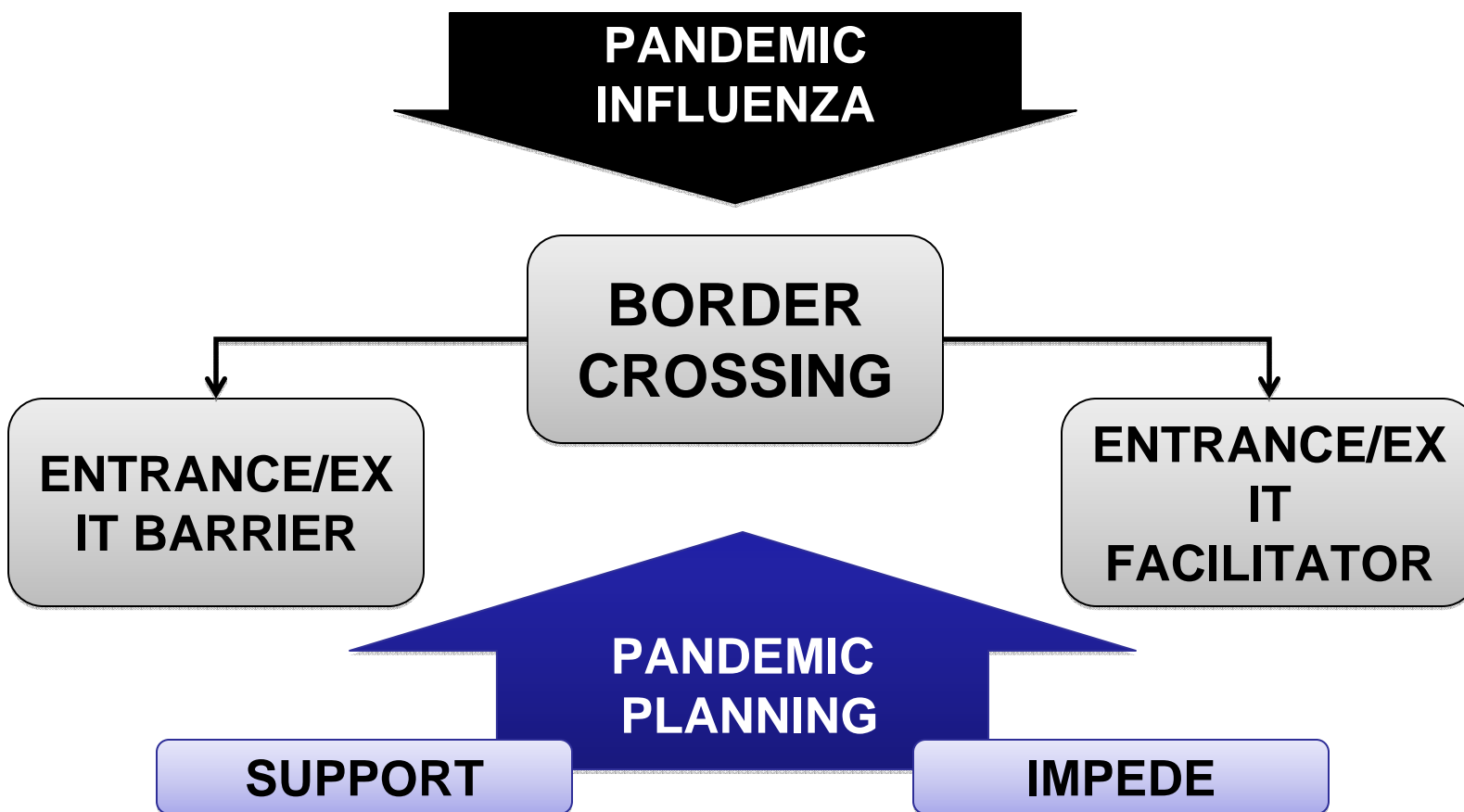
PANDEMIC INFLUENZA AND LAND BORDERS

GOBIERNO
FEDERAL



SALUD

PLANNING PROCESS





PANDEMIC INFLUENZA AND LAND BORDERS

GOBIERNO
FEDERAL



SALUD

FINAL COMMENTS

- No strategy is 100% effective
- Best outcome from a **combination** of strategies
- Success will be the result of **teamwork**
- Basic principle for international collaboration: **NO SURPRISES**