

# PANDEMICS

**A few notes on pandemics and Avian Influenza in particular.**

**Recorded fatalities resulting from previous pandemics**

	<u>Year</u>	<u>UK</u>	<u>Global</u>
Spanish Flu	1918/19	250,000	20/40 million
Asian Flu	1957/58	33,000	“
Hong Kong Flu	1968/69	30,000	“

**If a pandemic were to occur, it is estimated that up to 40% of the work force would be affected for as long as 12 weeks. The consequences of a massive depletion of the work force are enormous. The effects would be across every aspect of life from governmental departments, food manufacture and distribution, finance, pension payments, refuse removal, medical services, and so on.....**

**At present Avian Flu is transferred to humans as a result of close contact with infected birds. There is a possibility that the virus may mutate with the result that infection could be passed from person to person.**

**There is no specific universal medication to combat Avian Flu as the eventual strain of the virus may not be known immediately.**

**Even when the particular strain of the virus has been identified there will be a time delays (weeks/months) before antidotes can be manufactured and distributed.**

**See the Government web site below for further details.**

**Click this link: [defra.gov.uk/animals/diseases/notifiable/disease/ai/index.htm](http://defra.gov.uk/animals/diseases/notifiable/disease/ai/index.htm)**