



## Facing Fear

# Glossary

**advisory:** a statement that communicates risk information. Advisories are issued for significant events that are occurring, are imminent or have a high probability of occurrence.

**appropriate:** suitable for a particular person, place or condition

**avian influenza or bird flu:** Commonly known as bird flu, this strain of influenza virus is naturally occurring in birds. Wild birds can carry the virus and may not get sick from it; however, domestic birds may become infected by the virus and often die from it.

**behavior:** the actions or reactions of a person or thing in response to stimuli; the manner of conducting oneself; a person's responses to his or her environment

**bias:** prejudice, partiality; a mental leaning or inclination

**civilians:** people who are not active members of the military or the police

**combatants:** persons who engage in war or other armed strife

**contagious:** easily spread from one person to another

**Department of Homeland Security:** The federal government agency responsible for developing and carrying out a strategy to make the country safe from terrorism and other disasters

**diagnosis:** the process of determining the nature and cause of a disease

**emergency management:** the organization and management of resources and responsibilities dealing with all aspects of emergencies

**epidemiologist:** a person who studies all elements contributing to the occurrence or absence of a disease in a population

**expertise:** expert advice or knowledge; skill in a particular area

**facts:** pieces of information that are true about something that is happening or has happened

**fear:** a feeling of agitation or anxiety brought on by present or imminent danger



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**flu or influenza:** a contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses

**Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocols:** The Geneva Conventions are a series of international agreements establishing the rules for the treatment of prisoners of war, the sick and the wounded during time of war. The additional protocols were established later to protect civilian populations, particularly during internal national conflicts.

**germs:** disease-causing organisms, particularly bacteria

**human-caused disaster:** severe damage, injury or loss of life caused by human events, such as residential fire, structural failure, mass transportation accidents, war, acts of terrorism or sabotage

**humanitarian aid:** assistance, such as food and medical supplies, provided to victims of wars and other disasters

**immune:** resistant to an infectious disease

**inappropriate:** unsuitable for a particular person, place or condition

**influenza or flu pandemic:** a global outbreak of the influenza disease that occurs when a new influenza virus appears in the human population. Because people have little or no immunity to the new strain, serious illness can occur, and the virus can spread easily and rapidly from person to person with no vaccine immediately available.

**information:** a message received and understood; knowledge derived from study, experience or instruction

**International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC):** An international organization that cares for the wounded, sick and homeless in wartime, according to the rules of the Geneva Convention of 1864 and subsequent conventions and protocols, and now also during and in the aftermath of natural disasters

**laws:** rules of conduct established by custom, agreement or authority

**media:** a system or systems of communication, information or entertainment, including newspapers, magazines, television, radio and the Internet

**myth:** a traditional story, accepted as true, that explains a people's worldview; a commonly held but incorrect belief

**natural disaster:** a disaster caused by natural forces rather than human action, such as a hurricane, flood, earthquake or tornado

**pandemic:** an outbreak of a disease that affects large numbers of people throughout the world



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**pandemic flu (influenza):** a virulent influenza, or flu, caused by a new flu virus strain to which humans have not been exposed. It is more serious than a typical seasonal flu because there is no natural resistance or immunity to it and it infects large numbers of people of different ages all over the world, causing serious illness and possibly death.

**perception:** the understanding of a statement or thing or an event by the senses or the intellect

**prevention:** the act of keeping something from happening; ensuring that an occurrence does not take place

**primary source:** in research, an actual document from the period under study, written by an authoritative source. The writer of a primary source document usually has direct personal knowledge of the subject of the research.

**prisoner of war (POW):** a person captured by an opposing army or surrendering to enemy forces in wartime

**protected:** guarded; safeguarded against damage, attack, theft, injury or disease

**protections:** actions, laws or systems put in place to guarantee the safety of persons or property

**push and pull:** Information that comes to you is “push”; information that you seek is “pull.”

**reality:** the quality or state of being actual or true

**refugees:** people who flee one place for another in search of safety, particularly in times of war

**reliable:** dependable

**secondary source:** Secondary sources report the information from the primary source. Secondary sources may edit the information for length or readability. They may also filter the information to decide what is most important or they may have a particular focus or bias.

**seasonal flu:** a contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza, or flu, viruses occurring every year. It affects an average of 5 to 20 percent of the U.S. population by causing mild to severe illness, and in some instances it can lead to death. Most people have some immunity, and a vaccine is available. (See **flu**.)

**shelter:** something that covers or protects; a place that offers protection from the weather or danger; a basic need for life. During an emergency or after a disaster, shelters are temporary, safe places that are set up to support displaced people. They provide a place to sleep, food, water and bathrooms.



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**surrender:** to relinquish possession or control of a person or property to another person

**terrorism:** the unlawful use or threatened use of force against individuals or property to intimidate or coerce societies or governments, often to achieve political, ideological or religious objectives

**treatment:** the act, manner or method of handling or dealing with someone or something as well as care for illness or injury

**unknown:** not known; not familiar

**upper respiratory:** the part of the respiratory system that is above the lungs

**vaccination:** inoculation with a vaccine to protect against a particular disease

**virus:** a submicroscopic, infectious agent that replicates itself only within the cells of living hosts

**vulnerable people:** people who are more susceptible than most to illness or injury, particularly during a crisis, such as children, the elderly and people who have disabilities or chronic illnesses

**warning:** a threat or a sign of impending danger; advice to beware



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