



## Film Screenings

### *Marion Gruber:* *Preparedness Is Prevention*

## Film Comprehension Questions

### **What role does the FDA play in preventing disease outbreaks?**

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration is responsible for regulating and authorizing drugs, treatments and vaccines to combat disease. It is also instrumental in monitoring and preventing foodborne illness outbreaks.

### **What vaccine approach did the FDA take in 2009 in order to address the H1N1 swine flu pandemic?**

The 2009 H1N1 pandemic was caused by a new influenza variant that was efficient at both sickening individuals and spreading from person to person. Public health officials were concerned that the outbreak would be severe if a vaccine was not available by fall of 2009. To ensure that a vaccine was available, the FDA relied on the process used for seasonal influenza vaccines, incorporating the new H1N1 swine flu variant, allowing for quicker production of a safe and effective vaccine.

### **How does ring vaccination work?**

When researchers identify a person with an infectious disease, they isolate that person and vaccinate everyone who has been in contact with them during a certain period of time based on the biology of the pathogen. They often also vaccinate the contacts of the contacts to create a second “ring” of people who might have been exposed. This targeted approach of creating a “ring” of vaccination around the initial case ensures that those most likely to become infected have immunity, which helps to halt transmission of the disease.

### **How was ‘Operation Warp Speed’ different than the regular vaccine development process?**

Operation Warp Speed (OWS) was a collaboration between the Departments of Health and Human Services (HHS) and Defense (DOD) designed to accelerate the development of a COVID-19 vaccine. The federal government worked with vaccine companies to employ mechanisms to help speed up vaccine development and minimize risk. OWS took on the financial burden so that vaccine companies could begin manufacturing their experimental vaccines as clinical trials were being conducted. Despite this step of advanced manufacturing, all steps of the typical process of vaccine development and clinical trials were completed; however some phases were combined or ran concurrently to save time. If the trials showed the vaccines were safe and effective, then they were ready and waiting to be deployed. But if the trials showed a vaccine did not work as needed, those manufactured lots would be discarded and the company would still get paid for their efforts.

### **What strategies did public health professionals in the film recommend to be prepared for future infectious disease threats?**

Public health professionals recommended a proactive, rather than reactive, approach. They suggested actions such as:

- Investing in research
- Conducting global surveillance
- Developing collaborations within governments as well as with counterparts in governments from other countries.

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