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Obama declares H1N1 national emergency

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/0910/091025-h1n1.html>

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THE ARTICLE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/0910/091025-h1n1.html>

President Obama has declared H1N1 influenza a national emergency in the USA. He has given doctors and medical facilities more resources to deal with the pandemic. The autumn weather has increased the number of flu cases reported. Scientists have warned all year that the cooler weather could see a sharp rise in H1N1. Medical centers and hospitals are prepared for a much busier than usual flu season. Reports are that flu-like illnesses are already much higher than the usual seasonal peak. Since August the 30th, 8,200 people have contracted H1N1 in the United States and 411 people have died. This brings the total number of hospitalizations in the US this year to 20,000, with over 1,000 deaths.

The H1N1 pandemic continues to spread across the world. It has not reached the levels people feared back in April when it first broke out. Then, experts predicted it could be one of the largest outbreaks in centuries. Fears increased when schools started closing and people started dying. However, the predicted hundreds of thousands of deaths did not happen. Even though, there has been a huge effort by laboratories to find a vaccine for H1N1. Governments around the world have created awareness campaigns on how to prevent the spread of the disease and have stocked up on millions of doses of H1N1 vaccines. Some countries have started an immunization programme. The WHO warns we still need to be careful.

WARM-UPS

1. H1N1 INFLUENZA: Walk around the class and talk to other students about H1N1. Change partners often. Sit with your first partner(s) and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

President Obama / national emergencies / medical facilities / cooler weather / peaks / pandemics / fears / laboratories / deaths / vaccines / awareness campaigns / the WHO

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. NATIONAL EMERGENCIES: What should you do in a national emergency? Complete this table with your partner(s) Change partners and share what you heard.

Emergency	What you should do	Why?
H1N1 pandemic		
War		
Major earthquake		
Total financial collapse		
6 months of rioting		
Invasion by aliens		

4. PANDEMIC: Students A **strongly** believe the world cannot survive a serious pandemic; Students B **strongly** believe the opposite. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

5. ILLNESSES: Rank these illnesses and complaints. Put the one you like least at the top. Share your rankings with your partner. Change partners and share your rankings again.

- influenza
- food poisoning
- depression
- insomnia
- Parkinson's
- allergy to dairy products
- cancer
- diabetes

6. EMERGENCY: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word 'emergency'. Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/0910/091025-h1n1.html>

1. TRUE / FALSE:

Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- | | |
|--|-------|
| a. President Obama has called a global H1N1 emergency. | T / F |
| b. Medical centers aren't prepared yet for a rise in H1N1 cases. | T / F |
| c. There are many more flu-like cases than usual. | T / F |
| d. H1N1 has killed more than 1,000 people in the USA this year. | T / F |
| e. H1N1 has not killed as many people as thought earlier. | T / F |
| f. H1N1 is one of the biggest pandemics in centuries. | T / F |
| g. Governments have very few stocks of H1N1 vaccines. | T / F |
| h. The WHO says there is little need for us to worry. | T / F |

2. SYNONYM MATCH:

Match the following synonyms from the article.

- | | |
|--------------|------------------|
| 1. declared | a. occurrences |
| 2. deal with | b. forecast |
| 3. cases | c. regular |
| 4. rise | d. started |
| 5. usual | e. cautions |
| 6. feared | f. massive |
| 7. broke out | g. increase |
| 8. predicted | h. cope with |
| 9. huge | i. worried about |
| 10. warns | j. established |

3. PHRASE MATCH:

(Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. a national | a. flu season |
| 2. resources to deal | b. immunization programme |
| 3. increased the number of flu | c. outbreaks in centuries |
| 4. a much busier than usual | d. cases reported |
| 5. the total number | e. back in April |
| 6. the levels people feared | f. for H1N1 |
| 7. one of the largest | g. emergency in the USA |
| 8. find a vaccine | h. spread of the disease |
| 9. how to prevent the | i. with the pandemic |
| 10. countries have started an | j. of hospitalizations |

WHILE READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/0910/091025-h1n1.html>

GAP FILL: Put the words into the gaps in the text.

President Obama has _____ H1N1 influenza a national emergency in the USA. He has given doctors and medical facilities more _____ to deal with the pandemic. The autumn weather has increased the number of flu cases reported. Scientists have _____ all year that the cooler weather could see a _____ rise in H1N1. Medical centers and hospitals are prepared for a much _____ than usual flu season. Reports are that flu-like illnesses are already much higher than the _____ seasonal peak. Since August the 30th, 8,200 people have contracted H1N1 in the United States and 411 people have died. This _____ the total number of hospitalizations in the US this year to 20,000, with _____ 1,000 deaths.

usual
resources
sharp
declared
over
brings
warned
busier

The H1N1 pandemic continues to _____ across the world. It has not reached the levels people feared _____ in April when it first broke out. Then, experts predicted it could be one of the _____ outbreaks in centuries. Fears increased when schools started closing and people started _____. However, the predicted hundreds of thousands of deaths did not _____. Even though, there has been a huge effort by laboratories to find a vaccine for H1N1. Governments around the world have _____ awareness campaigns on how to prevent the _____ of the disease and have stocked up on millions of doses of H1N1 vaccines. Some countries have started an immunization programme. The WHO _____ we still need to be careful.

largest
spread
back
happen
warns
dying
spread
created

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/0910/091025-h1n1.html>

President Obama _____ influenza a national emergency in the USA. He has given doctors and medical facilities more _____ with the pandemic. The autumn weather has increased the number of flu cases reported. Scientists have warned all year that the cooler weather could _____ H1N1. Medical centers and hospitals are prepared for a much busier than usual flu season. Reports are that _____ are already much higher than the _____. Since August the 30th, 8,200 people have contracted H1N1 in the United States and 411 people have died. _____ number of hospitalizations in the US this year to 20,000, with over 1,000 deaths.

The H1N1 pandemic continues _____ the world. It has not reached the levels people feared back in April when it first broke out. Then, experts predicted it could _____ largest outbreaks in centuries. Fears increased when schools started closing and people started dying. However, the predicted hundreds of thousands _____ happen. Even though, there has been _____ laboratories to find a vaccine for H1N1. Governments around the world have created awareness campaigns on how to prevent _____ disease and have _____ millions of doses of H1N1 vaccines. Some countries have started an immunization programme. The WHO warns we still need to be careful.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/0910/091025-h1n1.html>

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'national' and 'emergency'.

national	emergency
-----------------	------------------

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• declared• deal• cooler• peak• 411• 20,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• spread• broke• largest• thousands• prevent• warns
--	--

STUDENT H1N1 INFLUENZA SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/0910/091025-h1n1.html>

Write five GOOD questions about H1N1 influenza in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.

When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

H1N1 INFLUENZA DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
- b) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'H1N1'?
- c) Where were you when you first heard about this disease?
- d) How did you feel when you first heard about H1N1?
- e) What do you think happens in an H1N1 national emergency?
- f) Are you happy with what your country is doing about H1N1?
- g) Are you worried about this disease?
- h) Are you doing anything to avoid catching H1N1?
- i) What should you do if you think you have H1N1?
- j) What do you know about how H1N1 started and why it was called Swine Flu?

Obama declares H1N1 national emergency – 25th October, 2009
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H1N1 INFLUENZA DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a) Did you like reading this article?
- b) How serious do you think H1N1 will become around the world?
- c) What other pandemics do you know about?
- d) Would H1N1 stop you from doing anything?
- e) What kind of awareness campaign is your government running?
- f) What would you do about H1N1 if you were leader of your country?
- g) What would you do if a virus started killing millions around the world?
- h) Do you think we will have the cures for all illnesses one day?
- i) Do you think President Obama was right to declare a national emergency?
- j) What questions would you like to ask the WHO about H1N1?

LANGUAGE – MULTIPLE CHOICE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/0910/091025-h1n1.html>

President Obama has declared H1N1 influenza a national emergency in the USA. He has given doctors and medical (1) _____ more resources to (2) _____ with the pandemic. The autumn weather has increased the number of flu cases reported. Scientists have (3) _____ all year that the cooler weather could see a sharp rise in H1N1. Medical centers and hospitals are prepared for a much busier than usual flu season. Reports are that flu-(4) _____ illnesses are already much higher than the usual (5) _____ peak. Since August the 30th, 8,200 people have contracted H1N1 in the United States and 411 people have died. This (6) _____ the total number of hospitalizations in the US this year to 20,000, with over 1,000 deaths.

The H1N1 pandemic (7) _____ to spread across the world. It has not reached the levels people feared back in April when it first broke (8) _____. Then, experts predicted it could be one of the largest outbreaks in centuries. Fears increased when schools started closing and people started (9) _____. However, the predicted hundreds of thousands of deaths did not happen. Even though, there has been a huge effort by laboratories to find a vaccine (10) _____ H1N1. Governments around the world have created awareness campaigns on how to prevent the spread of the disease and have stocked up (11) _____ millions of doses of H1N1 vaccines. Some countries have started an immunization programme. The WHO (12) _____ we still need to be careful.

Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|----------------|------------------|---------------|----------------|
| 1. | (a) faculty | (b) facility | (c) faculties | (d) facilities |
| 2. | (a) deal | (b) dealings | (c) dealt | (d) dealer |
| 3. | (a) warmed | (b) warned | (c) warred | (d) waned |
| 4. | (a) likely | (b) liking | (c) like | (d) likes |
| 5. | (a) season | (b) seasoning | (c) seasonal | (d) seasoned |
| 6. | (a) gives | (b) brings | (c) has | (d) is |
| 7. | (a) continuing | (b) continuation | (c) continual | (d) continues |
| 8. | (a) out | (b) up | (c) down | (d) in |
| 9. | (a) death | (b) dying | (c) dead | (d) dies |
| 10. | (a) with | (b) by | (c) to | (d) for |
| 11. | (a) in | (b) an | (c) on | (d) of |
| 12. | (a) warns | (b) warning | (c) warming | (d) warms |

Obama declares H1N1 national emergency – 25th October, 2009

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HOMework

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find out more about H1N1 influenza. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. H1N1 INFLUENZA: Make a poster about H1N1 influenza. Show what you should do to avoid catching it. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. PANDEMIC: Write a magazine article about how a virus has spread around the world. Include imaginary interviews with a virus expert and someone who is very afraid.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

5. LETTER: Write a letter to the WHO. Ask them three questions about H1N1 influenza. Give them three suggestions on how they can tell people more about H1N1. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE:

- a. F b. F c. T d. T e. T f. F g. F h. F

SYNONYM MATCH:

- | | |
|--------------|------------------|
| 1. declared | a. established |
| 2. deal with | b. cope with |
| 3. cases | c. occurrences |
| 4. rise | d. increase |
| 5. usual | e. regular |
| 6. feared | f. worried about |
| 7. broke out | g. started |
| 8. predicted | h. forecast |
| 9. huge | i. massive |
| 10. warns | j. cautions |

PHRASE MATCH:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. a national | a. emergency in the USA |
| 2. resources to deal | b. with the pandemic |
| 3. increased the number of flu | c. cases reported |
| 4. a much busier than usual | d. flu season |
| 5. the total number | e. of hospitalizations |
| 6. the levels people feared | f. back in April |
| 7. one of the largest | g. outbreaks in centuries |
| 8. find a vaccine | h. for H1N1 |
| 9. how to prevent the | i. spread of the disease |
| 10. countries have started an | j. immunization programme |

GAP FILL:

Obama declares H1N1 national emergency

President Obama has **declared** H1N1 influenza a national emergency in the USA. He has given doctors and medical facilities more **resources** to deal with the pandemic. The autumn weather has increased the number of flu cases reported. Scientists have **warned** all year that the cooler weather could see a **sharp** rise in H1N1. Medical centers and hospitals are prepared for a much **busier** than usual flu season. Reports are that flu-like illnesses are already much higher than the **usual** seasonal peak. Since August the 30th, 8,200 people have contracted H1N1 in the United States and 411 people have died. This **brings** the total number of hospitalizations in the US this year to 20,000, with **over** 1,000 deaths.

The H1N1 pandemic continues to **spread** across the world. It has not reached the levels people feared **back** in April when it first broke out. Then, experts predicted it could be one of the **largest** outbreaks in centuries. Fears increased when schools started closing and people started **dying**. However, the predicted hundreds of thousands of deaths did not **happen**. Even though, there has been a huge effort by laboratories to find a vaccine for H1N1. Governments around the world have **created** awareness campaigns on how to prevent the **spread** of the disease and have stocked up on millions of doses of H1N1 vaccines. Some countries have started an immunization programme. The WHO **warns** we still need to be careful.

LANGUAGE WORK

- 1 - d 2 - a 3 - b 4 - c 5 - c 6 - b 7 - d 8 - a 9 - b 10 - d 11 - c 12 - a