The role of the public

Dr Pieri’s research demonstrates the importance of making the public an active stakeholder in pandemic preparation and response. In her view, this is a key lesson that governments need to take from the coronavirus outbreak.

“Outside of an outbreak, the most public debate about pandemics comes through disaster movies,” she says.

“We need more sustained public debate through the media and with policymakers and practitioners to allow the public to better understand the risk of pandemics and for all of society to be able to better prepare against it.

“The public are capable of participating and have a right to take a more active role.”