

HackMUN V

CRISIS COMMITTEE: AVIAN FLU



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Note From the Chairs

Greetings Delegates!

Our names are Vivek Malik and Elan Suttiratana and it is our pleasure to welcome you to HackMUN V's Crisis Committee on the Avian Flu. We are very excited for this committee and recognize how it draws a parallel to a pressing public health emergency that we all lived through: the COVID-19 pandemic. **We encourage you to read through the entirety of the background guide as there are some important technicalities in how your powers will function that are different from other Crisis Committees that you might have participated in.** We also encourage you to undertake your own research as doing so will prepare us to dive straight into this challenging topic on the day of the conference. We hope your differing perspectives will lead to more creative solutions and we look forward to a day of debate, policy-making, compromise, problem-solving in response to various crises, and most importantly, fun! Feel free to contact us with any questions regarding the substance of the committee, your personal powers, or anything else.

If you are new, do not be shy. Model UN is home to one of the most encouraging communities in high school. The various experiences and perspectives that people bring to these conferences are what makes Model UN what it is. Try your best and be engaged!

We wish you all a great conference and look forward to the diplomatic resolve, passion, and joy you will bring to the conference! Please remember to reach out if you have any questions.

Feel free to contact us with any questions. See you at HackMUN V!

Sincerely,

Vivek Malik, Secretary-General, HackMUN V

Elan Suttiratana, Under-Secretary General, HackMUN V

Chairs and Backroom Directors for the Avian Flu Crisis Committee

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Committee Procedures

Position Papers

If you wish to be considered for an award this year at HackMUN V, you must turn in a position paper. Position Papers help you prepare effectively for debate and engage meaningfully with the topic before the day of the conference. Furthermore, your chairs can better understand the unique issues and possible solutions, and your committee position at large, prior to the actual beginning of the committee. For this crisis committee, the ideal position paper demonstrates a solid grasp of avian flu and your character's role within the public health emergency. More importantly, you should attempt to describe your position/stance within the emergency and the resources you have at your disposal to deal with it. Lastly, you should brainstorm potential solutions to the challenges at hand. Please send position papers less than 2 pages in length, 1.5-inch spacing in EITHER Google Doc or PDF format by the morning of **March 9th, 2024** to avianfluhackmun@gmail.com.

Important Note on Directives:

In this Crisis Committee, the directives are a little more complicated than usual. On the day of the conference, you will have the opportunity to collect paper copies of directive templates and fill them out over the course of the committee as you please. **Look at the “Delegate Powers and Authorities” section towards the end of this background guide for specifics.**

Introduction to the Committee

This crisis committee will deal with the domestic and international economic, public health and safety, and political ramifications of a highly infectious, severe, and deadly strain of H5N1 avian flu that begins to spread throughout the poultry of the United States. As the virus spreads, the members of this committee will be tasked with slowing the spread of the virus, monitoring the decline of the domestic fowl population, and preventing an economic collapse as poultry becomes an unsustainable source of sustenance. Delegates will take roles as members of the United States Congress, the President's cabinet, CDC officers, and representatives of some private companies affected by the virus. Since the committee is split between Democrats and Republicans, and public and private interests, internal and external conflict is highly probable. Poultry is a staple of American food: annually, almost 8 billion chickens are eaten by Americans, and the most wasted meat in the US is turkey. Moreover, according to the USDA, from 2012 to 2022, annual chicken consumption per capita increased from around 80 pounds per person to 95.8 pounds. How will the spread of the virus affect poultry prices and production, and thus the economy as a whole? Could the virus spread to humans? How dangerous would it be? Could the avian flu become a global pandemic on par with that of COVID-19? Will the members of the committee be able to collaborate to ease the economic effects and prevent further and continued outbreaks of this virus, among birds and humans? If they can, how will they prevent future outbreaks, not just of avian flu, but other animal-to-human transferred diseases? In this crisis committee, these hypotheticals will be put to the test, and delegates will be tasked with finding creative solutions to prevent the outbreak from spiraling into an unstoppable worldwide pandemic.

A Brief History

H5N1 avian influenza was first identified in geese in Guangdong, China, in 1996. Since 2020, a variant of this virus has caused an unexpected number of fatalities among wild fowl across Africa, Asia, and Europe. In 2021, it spread to North America and in 2022, to Central and South America. At the same time, 67 countries across these five continents reported H5N1 outbreaks in poultry and wild birds to the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH), with a total casualty count of over 130 million domestic birds, including birds culled for economic and safety purposes at affected farms. By July 2023, another 14 countries had reported H5N1 outbreaks, most of which were in the Americas, and numerous mass deaths had been reported in the wild.

As of July 2023, there have been increasing reports of H5N1 outbreaks in mammalian species — 10 countries in three continents have reported mammal-borne outbreaks to WOAH since 2022, and this number is likely underreported. There have been outbreaks among mink in Spain, seals in the USA, and sea lions in western South America. There have even been outbreaks in domesticated mammals, most recently at the time of writing, cats in Poland. This jump has led to speculation that the virus could begin to spread amongst humans in larger numbers, and evolve human-to-human transmission. In 2023 so far, there have only been 3 H5N1 cases globally, none of which are confirmed to have been caused by human transmission. Avian flu is incredibly infectious, and has a near 100% mortality rate among poultry, and scientists expect a fatality rate of 50-60% among humans, which could make an outbreak of avian influenza among humans a deadly and maybe even apocalyptic prospect.


Cumulative number of confirmed human cases [†] for avian influenza A(H5N1) reported to WHO, 2003-2023																
Country	2003-2009*		2010-2014*		2015-2019*		2020		2021		2022		2023		Total	
	cases	deaths	cases	deaths	cases	deaths	cases	deaths	cases	deaths	cases	deaths	cases	deaths	cases	deaths
Azerbaijan	8	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	5
Bangladesh	1	0	6	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	1
Cambodia	9	7	47	30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	58	38
Canada	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Chile	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
China	38	25	9	5	6	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	55	32
Djibouti	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Ecuador	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Egypt	90	27	120	50	149	43	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	359	120
India	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
Indonesia	162	134	35	31	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	200	168
Iraq	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	2
Lao People's Democratic Republic	2	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	2
Myanmar	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Nepal	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Nigeria	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Pakistan	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1
Spain	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0
Thailand	25	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	17
Turkey	12	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	4
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	4	0	5	0
United States of America	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Viet Nam	112	57	15	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	128	64
Total	468	282	233	125	160	48	1	0	2	1	6	1	8	1	878	458

^{*}2003-2009, 2010-2014 and 2015-2019 total figures. Breakdowns by year available on subsequent tables.

[†]This count includes reported detections in asymptomatic individuals. In some cases, the confirmation of infection versus transient contamination of the nasopharynx/oropharynx with virus particles after exposure to infected birds or contaminated environment remains inconclusive. Total number of cases includes number of deaths.

WHO reports only laboratory-confirmed cases. All dates refer to onset of illness.

Source: WHO/GIP, data in HQ as of 14 July 2023.



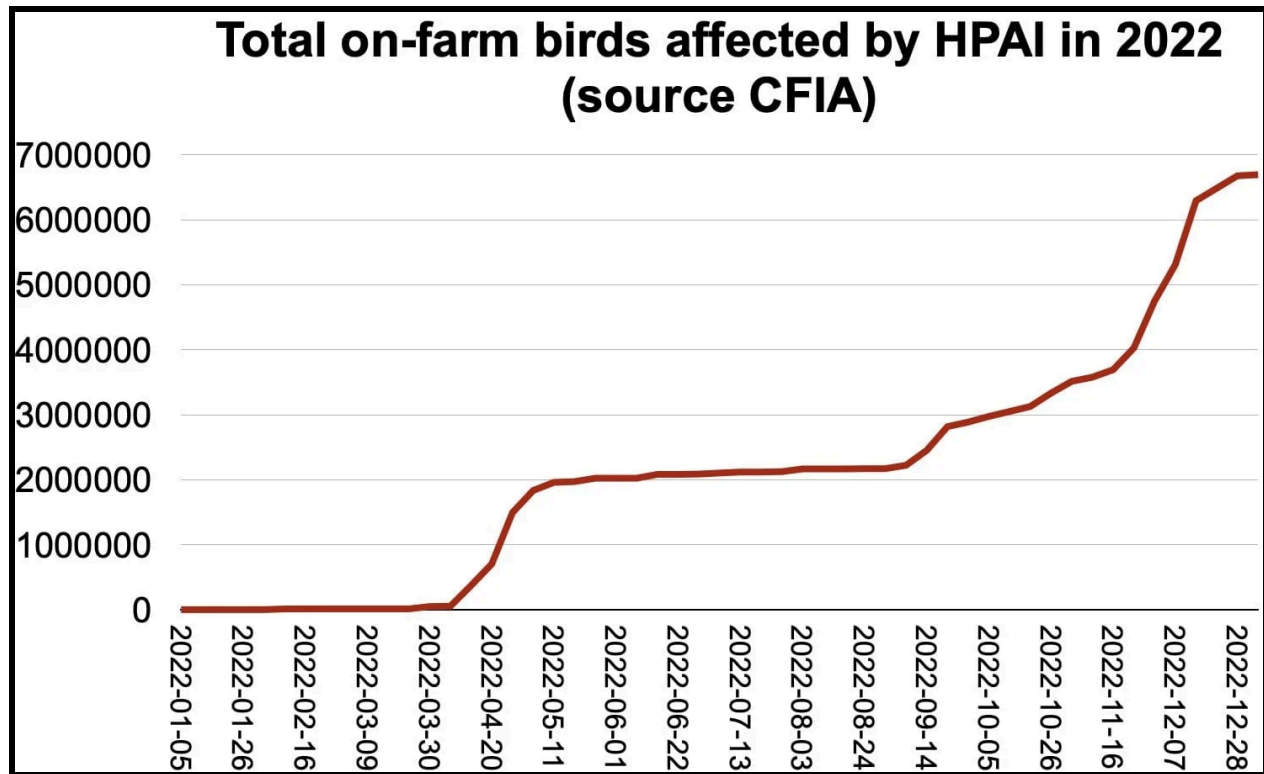
World Health
Organization



However, even though currently the virus mainly spreads among birds, H5N1 is still causing major economic problems around the globe, including chicken and turkey shortages and a lack of eggs, a staple worldwide. In the United States, the price of chicken per kilogram has more than doubled since 2020, and some egg products more than tripled in price from 2022 to 2023. As avian flu continues to spread, it may become prudent or even necessary to rely on poultry from other countries to supply the significant demand within the US economy to prevent further price increases, a move that may be politically controversial.

In this crisis, each sector of delegates must play unique roles in mitigating the avian flu crisis. Congressional delegates must use the varying powers of their roles to support legislation in the House and Senate to improve biosecurity regulations upon poultry farms, increase the frequency and thoroughness of farm inspections, and ensure that the nation is economically, socially, and administratively prepared for the risks of a potential avian flu pandemic. Delegates in the Cabinet must effectively use their departments and

Figure 1: Number of farmed birds affected by avian influenza in 2022



sub-departments to work with industry leaders and communicate with the executive branch of the United States government, and brief the President on the matter of H5N1 avian influenza, which will ensure that any potential Congressional legislation is signed into law, or not. Delegates serving as officers in the CDC are responsible for advising Congress and the Cabinet on how to prevent avian influenza at the source, rapid response and control of outbreaks, improve influenza surveillance and epidemiological outbreak investigations, and communicate with the American people about the risks of the virus. The Secretary of Health and Human Services may declare a public health emergency if they see fit. Finally, the delegates in the private sector are responsible for balancing the political and economic consequences of the loss of poultry as an affordable protein, and finding ways to temporarily reduce or replace chicken's place in the American economy and food chain.

Spreading to Humans

The U.S. Agriculture Department has been testing vaccines since April 2023, but only for poultry. However, since the virus would have to undergo significant genetic changes from its current state in order to spread to humans, our current knowledge of H5N1 inoculation would be rendered useless. Moreover, the U.S. stockpile of human vaccines was created and tested in the mid 2000s which would likely not be effective against new strains of avian influenza. A further complication of the existing H5N1 outbreaks among poultry is that most flu vaccines are grown in chicken eggs, which is a slow process in a healthy chicken population, let alone one where millions of chickens are dying from avian flu. As Purdue University virology professor Dr. Suresh Mittal says, "In a real pandemic situation, the poultry will be at threat, and then the supply of the eggs will be highly compromised." Moreover, the previous human vaccines for H5N1 were six times larger than the seasonal influenza vaccine, which further slows production. The seasonal migration of birds only serves to spread the virus further throughout wild fowl, which in turn will spread the disease to factory farms. With almost 60 million cases of avian flu in all birds since the end of 2022 in the United States, and almost 900 different outbreaks, the economic consequences of H5N1 avian influenza have begun to compound in the form of egg prices, as shown below.

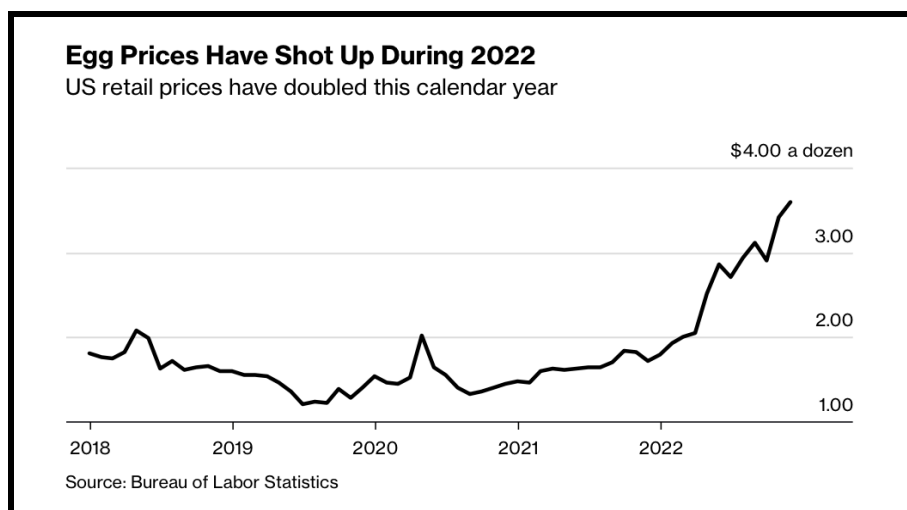


Figure 2: price of a dozen eggs from 2018-2023

Public Health Emergencies

Past public health emergencies in the United States, with the most recent example being the COVID-19 pandemic, have required rapid responses from both federal institutions and the private sector. This rapid response was largely handled by the declaration of a public health emergency and the powers granted to the Department of Health and Human Services as a result of this declaration.

Congress, the Treasury, and the Department of Health and Human Services spent trillions of dollars on COVID-19 relief: funding the American Rescue Plan, ensuring the survival of small businesses, and making sure that healthcare systems were adequately equipped to handle the pandemic. The American Rescue Plan was arguably the most important part of the COVID-19 response from the federal government, other than the declaration of a public health emergency. It allocated funds to expand testing sites, provided frameworks for businesses and institutions on how to safely reopen, and planned the launch of a national vaccination program.

Private companies were similarly important, providing critical resources like PPE to the government and the general public, helping to mitigate the economic impact of COVID-19, and adjusting the way they deliver their goods and services in a safe and pandemic-conscious manner.

Given the far-reaching impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, global trade and worldwide economies suffered. Trade and import/export values dropped at rates not seen since World War II. The unprecedented pandemic hindered consumer demand, production, investment, and international trade. Intergovernmental organizations like the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and World Trade Organization (WTO) have been instrumental in publishing frameworks and guidelines for establishing disease-safe trade. The United States experienced a massive economic downturn at the outset of the pandemic, whose effects were felt even into 2022. The Dow Jones dropped almost 13% and the S&P 500 dropped almost 8% in a single day: these two equity funds are some of the most followed indicators of the American economy, and this drop caused major economic panic. The global economic effect of a pandemic is something that has to be

managed by collaboration of the Treasury and State departments with their counterparts around the world.

What Now?

Farmers in rural Iowa have reported birds dropping dead in their fields, seemingly without cause. The first reported death was just three days ago, but already just shy of twenty thousand chickens are dead or experiencing significant illness. The rapid growth in cases and death has attracted the attention of the U.S. Agriculture Department and the CDC, especially as more human cases begin to be reported in workers in contact with infected poultry. The CDC Global Rapid Response Team is en route to Iowa, arriving any minute now. Based on the numbers aggregated from local farmers, the disease has an 80% mortality rate across all birds, with a 99% mortality for chickens, a critical component of the American food economy. The CDC believes that this is a new, even more dangerous strain of the H5N1 avian influenza, and unofficial statements indicate that it will be treated and investigated as such unless found otherwise. It is mostly likely that the strain mutated during an existing outbreak of avian flu in Iowa, and began to spread to other farms via wild fowl.

Committee Positions

NOTE TO DELEGATES: PLEASE READ THROUGH BOTH YOUR OWN ROLES & THE ROLES OF OTHER DELEGATES PRIOR TO THE CONFERENCE

Congressional Positions:

Delegates in congressional roles play a vital role in the policymaking sector of the avian flu crisis. They must work with each other to write legislation that mitigates the economic and social effects of the avian flu, initiate protocols to slow the spread of the virus (by coordinating with the CDC, HHS, and FDA), and most importantly, institute policies that keep American citizens safe and healthy.

Chuck Schumer — Majority Leader of the Senate

In addition to his role as Senate Majority Leader, Schumer acts as an emissary to the White House, coordinating policy and plans of action with the Vice President and President.

Mitch McConnell — Minority Leader of the Senate

McConnell must lead the Republican wing of Congress, collaborating with the Democratic caucus while still keeping in mind the aspirations of his own party amidst the pandemic.

Mike Johnson — Speaker of the House of Representatives

Johnson must be at the forefront of the legislative action of this committee. He will need to work with his colleagues across the aisle and in the private sector to advance meaningful and actionable legislation to the floor of the House.

Hakeem Jeffries — Minority Leader of the House of Representatives

Since the Democrats currently have a minority in the House, Jeffries must negotiate with the Republican majority to advance legislation that stops the spread of avian flu and manages the global impacts of the pandemic. He must not let partisan aspirations get in the way of enacting legislation. Compromise is key.

Brett Guthrie — Chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health

Guthrie is the chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health, which holds hearings and reviews legislation relating to: private/public health insurance; medicare/medicaid; biomedical research and development; hospital construction; the regulation of drugs; oversight of the Department of Health and Human Services and CDC. It is Guthrie's job to work with the Health and Human Services Secretary (Xavier Becerra) and

private companies like Aetna and Moderna to create well-informed legislation that helps to mitigate the effects of the avian flu.

Cabinet Positions:

Xavier Becerra — Secretary of Health and Human Services

Becerra leads the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), which plays a crucial role in this committee. HHS oversees sub-departments such as the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), which ensures drug safety, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), which oversees health insurance for certain populations, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), which is at the frontline of dealing with public health emergencies, and the National Institutes of Health (NIH), which funds biomedical research. **Most importantly, under section 319 of the Public Health Service (PHS) Act, the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services can declare a Public Health Emergency (PHE) without having to consult with Congress or the President.** He can also suspend or modify any government health program and use the United States' emergency funds. Becerra will be important for overseeing the CDC, advising Congress in creating legislation.

Antony Blinken — Secretary of State

Antony Blinken wields significant influence in both diplomatic and global health crises. In times of geopolitical challenges, his expertise guides foreign policy decisions, enabling him to navigate international alliances, propose diplomatic solutions, and allocate resources strategically to address global uncertainties. Additionally, Blinken's leadership is instrumental in coordinating international responses to health crises, contributing to global health security, **particularly through the Bureau for Global Health Security and Diplomacy (GHSD).** As the chief diplomat, he plays a pivotal role in fostering international cooperation for pandemic preparedness and response, directing resources for vaccine distribution, and ensuring a united front in the face of global health challenges.

Tom Vilsack — Secretary of Agriculture

Vilsack's primary role is to ensure the well-being of American farmers, promote agricultural sustainability, and safeguard the nation's food supply. He manages farm subsidies, food safety regulations, conservation efforts, rural development initiatives, and nutrition programs like SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program). In terms of the avian flu, Vilsack would implement measures to contain the spread of the virus among poultry populations (including between domestic and wild poultry), ensuring the safety of the food supply chain, and collaborating with the Department of Health and Human

Services as well as private companies like Tyson Foods. Vilsack would also be instrumental in implementing emergency measures to protect public health, potentially including the culling of infected poultry, the development and distribution of vaccines, and communication strategies to keep the public informed.

Gina Raimondo — Secretary of Commerce

Raimondo's primary responsibilities during the avian flu crisis will involve facilitating coordination between businesses, industries, and relevant authorities to ensure the continued supply chain of essential goods and services. She may work to mitigate the economic impact by identifying areas where support and relief measures are needed, especially for sectors directly affected by the outbreak. Additionally, her role could involve communication and outreach efforts to provide clear guidelines for businesses, employees, and the public to navigate the challenges posed by the avian flu pandemic. It is also her responsibility to adjust trade policies, implementing temporary restrictions and ensuring the resilience of the poultry supply chain by establishing safety protocols and supporting affected businesses.

Janet Yellen — Secretary of the Treasury

Janet Yellen holds a critical position in both economic and medical crises, overseeing vital agencies like the IRS, FinCEN, and the OCC. In economic downturns, her expertise influences fiscal policies, allowing her to propose budgets, implement emergency measures, and allocate funds strategically to stabilize the economy. In the face of health emergencies, she plays a vital role in directing emergency funds to bolster healthcare infrastructure, support vaccine distribution, and ensure a robust response. Yellen's leadership and powers are a mainstay for a resilient and coordinated national approach to crises in terms of both economic and healthcare considerations.

Mandy Cohen — Director of the CDC

Dr. Mandy Cohen is the current director of the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The U.S. CDC is a sub-agency of the Department for Health and Human services, responsible for detecting and slowing the spread of international and domestic-borne illnesses, and frequently conducts research regarding these pathogens. As the director of the CDC, Dr. Cohen is responsible for advising the executive branch on medical policy. Moreover, Dr. Cohen possesses the power of the CDC to issue federal isolation and quarantine orders if necessary, to restrict the importation of animals, animal products, human remains, or any other items that may pose public health threats, and can order U.S. quarantine stations to implement the International Health Regulations created by the World Health Organization in 2005 after the SARS outbreak to support global health

security. Note that CDC decisions, as of now, can be challenged in court or by Congress if they believe it has overstepped its bounds, as shown during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Private Companies:

Samuel Hazen — President of HCA healthcare

Samuel Hazen has served as the Chief Executive Officer of HCA Healthcare since 2018, a leading healthcare provider with a broad network of hospitals and medical facilities. HCA Healthcare is at the forefront of delivering comprehensive healthcare services. Under Hazen's leadership, HCA Healthcare plays a crucial role in responding to public health challenges. In the event of a health crisis, particularly in the context of emerging diseases or pandemics, Hazen oversees the implementation of rapid response strategies. This includes coordinating with relevant healthcare agencies, seeking expedited regulatory approvals, and utilizing the organization's resources to ensure the swift development and distribution of essential medical interventions. Hazen's responsibilities extend to collaborating with government bodies, insurance providers, and public health agencies to devise accessible and cost-effective healthcare solutions for communities. Additionally, HCA Healthcare, under Hazen's guidance, remains committed to collaborative research efforts with pharmaceutical companies, focusing on both short-term therapeutic interventions and long-term vaccine development to address emerging healthcare challenges.

Stéphane Bancel — CEO of Moderna

Stéphane Bancel has been the Chief Executive Officer of Moderna, Inc. since 2011. Moderna is a biotechnology and pharmaceutical company specializing in the development of mRNA vaccines, a novel method of vaccination used in the COVID vaccine. During the COVID 19 pandemic, Moderna developed one of the most effective vaccines and was the face of fast paced therapeutic innovation. Stéphane Bancel is in charge of seeking Fast Track from the FDA — a process designed to facilitate the development, and expedite the review of drugs to treat serious conditions and fill an unmet medical need. Bancel will use NIH funding for avian flu vaccine research and development (a vaccine for birds AND a vaccine for humans), and a sped up approval process to get the vaccine to market as soon as possible. Moderna will work closely with pharmacy/insurance companies, Congress, and the CDC to develop a plan that allows everyone to have the vaccine administered in an accessible and cost-friendly manner. Moderna will also work with other pharma companies to research a short-term drug that can reduce the serious effects of avian flu, while they work on creating a vaccine.

Donnie King — CEO of Tyson Foods

Tyson Foods is a prominent company in the food industry, specifically in meat processing and marketing. Tyson Foods faced significant scrutiny during the COVID-19 pandemic due to allegations of inadequate worker safety measures and failure to enforce mask mandates, resulting in multiple lawsuits citing negligence in managing the spread of the virus within their facilities. The closures of Tyson's facilities during outbreaks, while detrimental to livestock farmers, played a pivotal role in mitigating and preventing further infections. Donnie King plays a crucial role in balancing disease control and keeping Tyson facilities functional. Closing factories slows the spread of disease, but also takes away jobs from Tyson employees and could result in potential legal action against the company, something King cannot risk. Simultaneously, he navigates the balance of ensuring equitable access to meat for all, demonstrating a commitment to both the well-being of workers and the broader community.

Brian Kane — President of Aetna

Brian Kane became President of Aetna Inc. in April 2023. Aetna is a subsidiary of CVS Health devoted to the health benefits and insurance sector. Previously a CFO at Humana Inc. and an investment banker at Goldman Sachs, Kane's financial and medical expertise will be critical in ensuring that Aetna policyholders are provided adequate medical benefits in the case of a pandemic while keeping Aetna's bottom line steady. When Kane took his position, he committed to improve access to personalizable, affordable, quality healthcare for all Americans through the assets of Aetna and CVS Health. This commitment will be put to the test during this committee, especially in the event of a pandemic. Aetna has been accused in some class action suits of having profits come before people, and while Aetna is a for-profit corporation, Kane will have to make some tough decisions between doing what is right for the people and doing what is right for his company.

Policy Experts:

These advisors are crucial to implementing effective policy that affect corporations and everyday citizens. They will work closely with cabinet departments and congressional representatives to design all kinds of policies to stop the spread of Avian Flu and manage the fallout during the pandemic.

Jeremy Farrar — Chief Scientist of the World Health Organization

Sir Jeremy James Farrar OBE FRCP FRS FMedSci is a British medical researcher who has served as Chief Scientist at the World Health Organization since 2023. As Chief Scientist, Farrar has the ability to declare a Public Health Emergency of International Concern

(PHEIC), which would signal the seriousness of an avian flu outbreak and trigger international coordination efforts to stop the spread of the avian flu. Farrar can also provide technical guidance to the United States government on how to prevent infection and control the spread of the virus. The WHO also facilitates collaboration between countries through data sharing and mobilizing resources to deal with and track outbreaks across the globe. Farrar will also be tasked with supporting vaccine research and ensuring equitable access to the potential avian flu vaccine across the globe.

Ashish Jha — Coordinator of Avian Flu Response and Counselor to the President

Dr. Ashish Kumar Jha, an Indian-American general internist physician and esteemed scholar, has been the White House COVID-19 response coordinator since 2022. Having served as the Dean of the Brown University School of Public Health since 2020, Dr. Jha brings a wealth of experience and expertise to the committee. His role mirrors that of his COVID-19 response position, wherein he advises key members of the committee including the President, Congress, Cabinet Departments, and members of the Private Sector on formulating and executing effective Avian Flu responses. With his extensive background in medicine and public health, Dr. Jha will spearhead the development and implementation of targeted policy tailored to combat the Avian Flu threat. With his expertise in pandemic response from the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Jha will play a pivotal role in shaping comprehensive strategies to mitigate the impact of potential outbreaks and safeguard public health.

Dawn O'Connell — Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services for Preparedness and Response

Dawn O'Connell, an American attorney and distinguished health advisor, presently holds the position of Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services for Preparedness and Response. Her leadership extends to the international scale, as she concurrently served as the Director of the US Office for the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness and Innovation (CEPI) during the COVID-19 pandemic. Leading CEPI, a global partnership aimed at vaccine development in preparation for future epidemics, underscores O'Connell's commitment to international health security and expertise with pandemic response. In her role within the Department of Health and Human Services, O'Connell plays a central role in formulating and executing preparedness strategies to tackle emerging health threats such as the Avian Flu. Drawing upon her legal expertise and extensive experience in health governance, she collaborates with national and international stakeholders to bolster response capabilities and ensure robust preparedness measures are in place to safeguard public health on a global scale.

Delegate Powers and Authorities:

Department	People	Powers
Political	Chuck Schumer, Mitch McConnell, Mike Johnson, Hakeem Jeffries, Brett Guthrie	Implementing policy, directing cabinet departments, holding hearings
Cabinet	Tom Vilsack, Gina Raimondo, Xavier Becerra, Janet Yellen, Antony Blinken Mandy Cohen (CDC)	Create policy, declare emergencies, direct sub-agencies; coordinate with international counterparts Implement Quarantines, recommend health policy, greenlight onsite medical oversight, advise Congress
Private Corporations	Samuel Hazen, Stéphane Bancel, Donnie King, Brian Kane	No limitations on scope of directive (can do everything a private sector executive can do)
Policy Experts	Jeremy Farrar, Ashish Jha, Dawn O'Connell	Significant influence over all policy and communication with the public.

Committee Directives:

These must be voted on and passed with simple majority. Committee Directives need at least 3 sponsors.

Congressional Directives:

- Must have at least 3 Sponsors **from Congress**
- Congressional directives consist of enacting actionable policy/legislation

Cabinet Directives:

- A committee directive introduced by a cabinet member must be within the scope of that cabinet member's responsibilities
- **Note:** Cabinet members should make use of **personal directives more so than committee directives**. This is because cabinet members can recommend policy to the President (backroom) and perform their delegated powers without oversight from anyone else.

Private Sector Directives:

- Can work with policy advisors to pass committee directives.
- Private Company Heads should make use of **personal directives** more so than committee directives (see below)

Policy Experts:

- Can sponsor or vote on any directive.

Voting:

- For the sake of simplicity, every committee member can vote for any directive. Not every member can be a sponsor on every directive, however.

Personal Directives (DIFFERENT FROM CRISIS NOTES):

These are not voted on by committee, however they must be read aloud to committee. Personal directives are sent to the backroom and, if deemed appropriate, will be implemented immediately.

Cabinet:

- Cabinet members can recommend/institute policy within their scope without oversight from Congress. They will do this using a personal directive. **The committee can override their action by passing a congressional directive.**

Private Sector:

- Private companies should primarily use personal directives to accomplish their goals

Crisis Notes:

Crisis notes are like Personal Directives but they are not shared with the committee. Committee members can use Crisis Notes for anything they want accomplished, personally or professionally, without having to disclose this to committee members.

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