

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910971063603321
Titolo	Public engagement on facilitating access to antiviral medications and information in an influenza pandemic : workshop series summary // Barbara Fain, Kristin Viswanathan, and Bruce M. Altevogt, rapporteurs ; Forum on Medical and Public Health Preparedness for Catastrophic Events, Board on Health Sciences Policy, Institute of Medicine of the National Academies
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Washington, D.C., : National Academies Press, 2012
ISBN	9780309256971 0309256976 9781283636162 1283636166 9780309256957 030925695X
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (56 p.)
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Soggetti	Influenza - Prevention - United States Antiviral agents - United States
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references.
Nota di contenuto	FrontMatter -- Reviewers -- Contents -- Introduction and Workshop Series Summary -- Appendix: Recruitment Flyer.
Sommario/riassunto	Influenza pandemics overwhelm health care systems with thousands or hundreds of thousands of sick patients, as well as those worried they may be sick. In order to ensure a successful response to the patient swell caused by a pandemic, robust planning is essential to prepare for challenges public health officials may face. This includes the need to quickly distribute and dispense antiviral medications that can reduce the severity and duration of disease to large numbers of people. In response to a request from the Centers for Disease Control, the

Institute of Medicine's Forum on Medical and Public Health Preparedness for Catastrophic Events held a series of workshops that explored the public's perception of how to facilitate access to antiviral medications and treatment during an influenza pandemic. To help inform potential strategies still in the development stages at the CDC, workshops were held in Fort Benton, Montana; Chattanooga, Tennessee; and Los Angeles, California during February and March 2012 to consider the usefulness of several alternative strategies of delivering antiviral medication to the public. Participants considered how the normal systems for prescribing and dispensing antiviral medications could be adjusted to ensure that the public has quick, safe, and equitable access to both potentially life-saving drugs and information about the pandemic and treatment options. This document summarizes the workshops.
