

# TOPIC GUIDE



**BaLMUN 2021**

**WHO (World Health Organisation) Committee**

**Chairs: Andrej Ševa**

*Dear delegates,*

*it is truly an honor to welcome you all to the 8th annual Banja Luka Model United Nations Conference. Although it is hard to admit, we are beyond saddened to have moved to this virtual, online format, at least for the time being. However, this way, at least a little, each one of us does their part in controlling the pandemic.*

*Talking of, you may have just guessed the pivotal theme of this WHO conference, the ongoing and potential health hazards. The exact topic will be provided further in the guide. Nonetheless, I once again welcome you and encourage you to, via productive debate, come up with applicable and appropriate resolutions that would help Us cope with this and future health challenges, and ultimately prevent the scenario we are living from ever happening again.*

*I sincerely hope that this, somewhat different experience encourages you to not only speak, not only promote, but also act and put your words into action.*

*The future is in our hands, let's bring it back home... from home.*

*Best regards,*

*Andrej and*

## ***Topic: Preventing a future global pandemic while dealing with the ongoing situation***

### **Introduction:**

World Health Organization is a global organisation, sponsored by the United Nations, whose primary goal is to observe and combat global health issues, improve global health standards, conduct scientific health-related initiatives and researches, and finally, maintain global health equality and equity. In these demanding times, it is extremely challenging to fulfil and conduct the principles the Organisation lies on. That is exactly why it is of crucial importance to talk, promote and demand equality and solidarity. Without solidarity, without equality, the nations will not learn to coexist with such hazards, let alone defeat them.



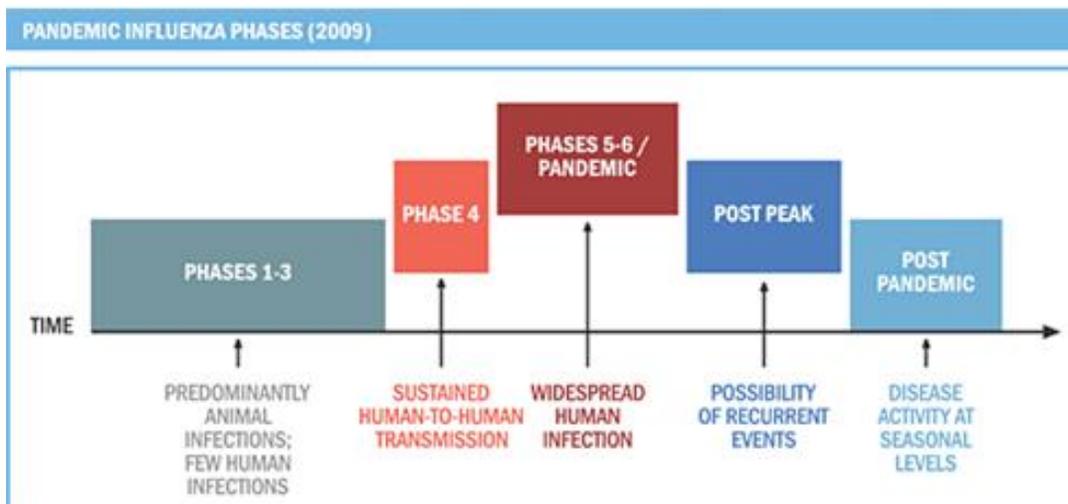
### **Researching the topic:**

Researching and exploring the topic should not only and strictly be related to the ongoing SARS-CoV-2 pandemic itself, and should also include but not be limited to:

- prior pandemics, and micro-territorial epidemics, how were they resolved and dealt with,
- vaccine research and production in the past along with the following immunisation,
- basic microbiology research, virus transmission, immune response, bacterial vs. viral epidemics, remedies, etc.
- viral intelligence, mutations and the appearance of potential new variants (ongoing challenges vs. resolved challenges).

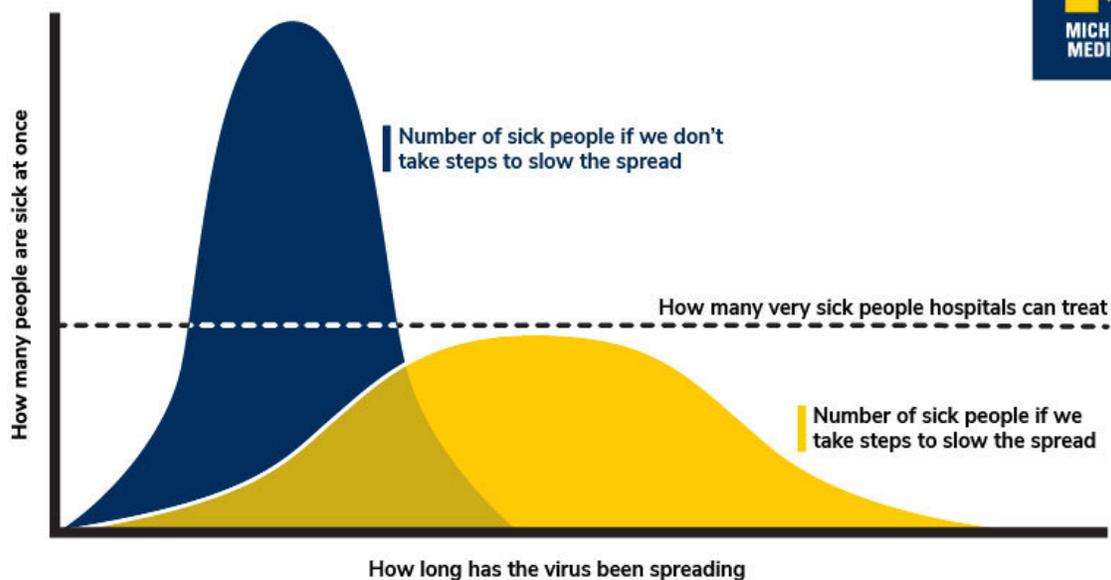
In regards to the COVID-19 and SARS-CoV-2, one should be prepared to tackle and include the following:

- the specifics of COVID-19 disease, what we do know and what we do not,
- how it started,
- circulating variants as a potential threat to ending the pandemic,
- vaccine distribution problems and inequity,
- socio-economic and education issues,
- lockdown and how it affects mental health,
- what we have learned so far, and how it will help the Nations cope with possible future pandemics and/or other health hazards,
- avoiding potential future *delayed responses* (regarding the imposition of the belated restrictions),
- isolating and putting suspect cases in quarantine,
- discussing and educating yourself on the phases of a pandemic (peaks, waves, linear and exponential growths, ICU capacities; epidemiological mathematical models as a guide through a pandemic),
- establishing coexistence with the ongoing and future biological hazards,



Picture 1 (a graph illustrating the phases of 2009 Influenza pandemic as an example of reaching the post pandemic, endemic phase)

- improving and readying health systems to fight and provide an adequate response, preventing health systems from collapsing,
- flattening the curve, etc.



Adapted from the CDC

Picture 2 (a graph illustrating the process of *flattening the curve*)

## What to consider while writing your position paper and/or writing a resolution:

- Educate yourself on your country's views and opinions on the topic, bearing in mind that your personal view should not always align with the politics and views of the country you represent.
- Try to exclude your personal biased views, and try to fully represent the politics of the country assigned.
- Be diplomatic, behave accordingly, use formal English entirely, refrain from using personal pronouns.
- Regarding the topic itself, try and include the following:
  - Ending and defeating COVID-19, the goal
  - Massive immunisation, vaccination campaigns

- Funding the development of antiviral drugs and remedies
- Resisting and fighting against false information and anti-vaccination movements
- Including socio-economic aspect
- Coping with poverty and mental health issues induced by the COVID-19 pandemic
- Developing strategies against further health emergencies in terms of pandemics, epidemics and other biohazards

### Useful links:

1. <https://www.who.int/>
2. <https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/02/1084982>
3. <https://theconversation.com/the-keys-to-preventing-future-pandemics-153326>
4. [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/article/PIIS1473-3099\(20\)30949-X/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/article/PIIS1473-3099(20)30949-X/fulltext)
5. <https://newatlas.com/health-wellbeing/coronavirus-explained-what-do-we-know-so-far/>
6. <https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-55404988>