

STUDENT HANDOUT 1.1

Pandemic Flu!

Name_____ Date_____ Period_____

Read the scenario and come to a decision on your own. When you and your group are finished, discuss your answers in a group. **Be prepared to explain how you reached your decision.** The purpose of this exercise is to practice using reasoning skills in a difficult, hypothetical situation in which there is no clear answer.

Scenario

A severe worldwide outbreak of a flu caused by a respiratory virus has occurred. It threatens everybody in your community—healthy young people as well as the very old and very young. You cannot count on receiving federal assistance during this pandemic. This deadly flu has already killed people in your community and exposure to the flu is expected. Anybody who has not been vaccinated will succumb to the flu and most likely die. Effective vaccines exist in limited supply. There are enough vaccines to treat more than half of the community members during the first wave of the pandemic.

There are ten people who require the vaccine at this time and you can only treat six.
The four individuals who do not receive the vaccine will most likely die.

Which six should receive the flu vaccine?

- Woman who thinks she is six weeks pregnant
- Recently orphaned two-year old
- Nurses' aide who works at a nursing home
- Senior citizen who has 15 grandchildren
- Thirteen-year-old twins
- Doctor
- Elementary school teacher
- Mother and son; the mother is refusing treatment so her son will be treated

Who Should Receive the Vaccine?	How Did You Decide?