

# Simulation Exercise 1: A Mysterious Illness

# Simulation Exercise: Introduction

**Approach:** Stimulate discussion and confront challenges through decision making exercises

**Objective:** Improved risk communication for public health emergencies

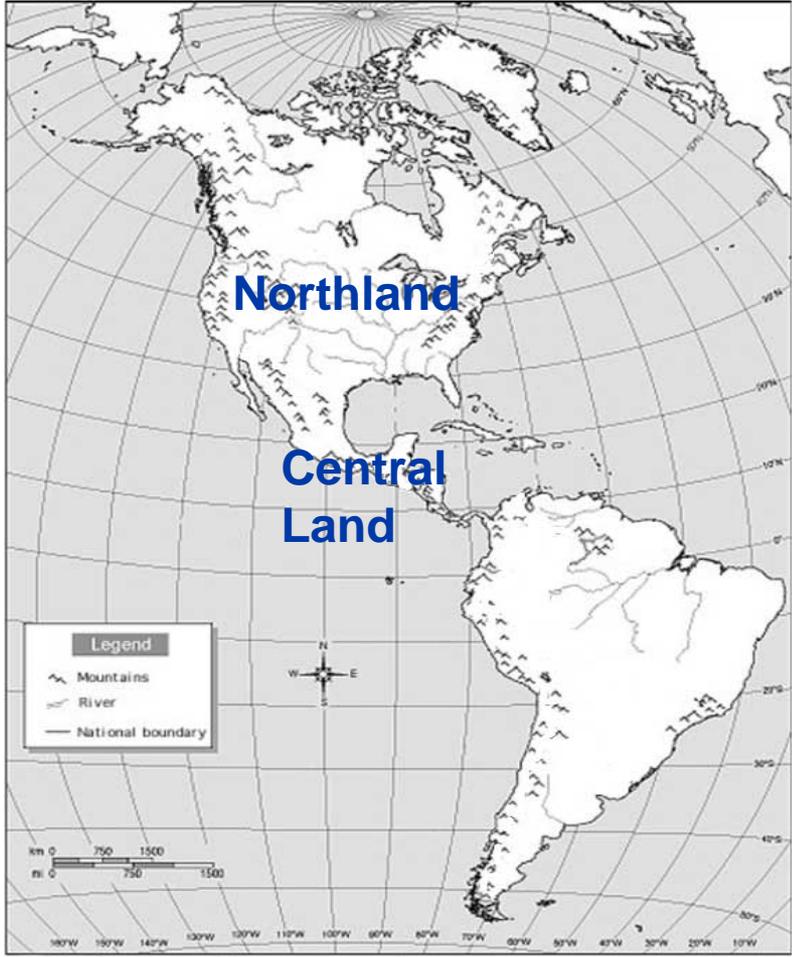
**Structure:**

- 1) Brief Description of events
- 2) Work Group Task
- 3) Background Presentation
- 4) Discussion

## **Simulation Exercise: Introduction**

- Your role:** Member of public communication team of Central Land Public Health Ministry
- Your challenge:**
- To work together respectfully
  - To concentrate on communication,  
not science
  - To be courageous

# Simulation Exercise: Introduction



**THE AMERICAS: PHYSICAL**



## Components of Trust

***Motives:*** Are authorities acting primarily to protect my health and the health of my family?

***Honesty:*** Are the responders withholding or downplaying information?

***Competence:*** Are the responders capable of controlling the emergency?

# Simulation Exercise: Part 1

**Timeline:** Tourist season in Central Land

**Day 1:** Tourist from Northland diagnosed with possible pneumonia, returns to hotel

**Day 4:** Illness: respiratory  
Symptoms: cough, difficulty breathing, body aches, diarrhea  
Cases: 22

**Index case, Robert Smith, found dead**

# **Simulation Exercise: Part 1**

**Lab test ordered: Suspicion of SARS  
5 day delay**

**Internal debate: Public health urging warning  
Tourism urging silence  
Agriculture urging caution**

**Decision: What, if anything, should be  
communicated publicly?**

# **Simulation Exercise: Part 1**

## **Workgroup Task:**

**Complete the Simulation Part 1 - Workgroup Task**