CONFIDENTIAL

Intelligence Briefing FAQ

Operation: Constellation – Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How do I utilize past outbreaks to inform my Operation?

A: To map the present, you must decode the past. We recommend selecting one of the following historical outbreaks to understand how community networks succeeded or failed:

- **1918 Influenza:** National Archives | Influenza Archive
- **Polio:** Science Museum | CBC History
- **Smallpox:** CDC History | Canadian Encyclopedia

Consider the following objectives in your research:

1. **The Pathogen:** Define its biological classification, transmission vectors, and pathogenesis.
2. **The Impact:** Identify which regions were historically affected and how it hit your specific community.
3. **The Network:** Who had the authority to make decisions? How did different groups (government, hospitals, citizens) coordinate?

Q: What resources/tools are available for my team?

A: Effective agents utilize both global intelligence and local reconnaissance. Start here:

- **The Data:** U.S. Census Demographic Data & CDC Emergency Prep Funding
- **The Strategy:** Network Mapping as a Learning Tool
- **The Vision:** Bill Gates (TED): We're Not Ready & Pardis Sabeti (TED): Fighting the Next Virus
- **The Inspiration:** View the trailers for *Contagion* or *Outbreak* to visualize the disruption of an unmapped network.

Q: What are the rules regarding Artificial Intelligence (e.g., LLMs)?

A: AI is a powerful tool, but it cannot replace human intelligence.

- **Disclosure:** You must cite and describe your use of LLMs in your submission form.
- **Information vs. Synthesis:** Use AI to gather raw data or organize thoughts. You **must not** use AI to synthesize your final analysis or write your essays.
- **Authenticity:** All final deliverables must reflect your team's unique voice and understanding.

Q: How "local" should my network map be?

A: Precision is key. Aim for the municipality, county, or parish level.
A winning "Constellation" map identifies unique local strengths and specific gaps. If your team can identify a solution to a gap in your specific county, that solution could become a blueprint for the rest of the world.

- **Here's a tip:** Look at the "Work Units" in an **Operation Outbreak Enhanced Simulation** for an idea of the granular detail we expect.

Q: Why is Operation Outbreak running a competition?

A: How many of us know our local epidemiologists by name? When it comes to outbreaks, we want students to not just know their communities, but also be the first line of community defense. By crowdsourcing local "ground-level" data, you participate in building a network of global preparedness. Your work may identify the hotspots where professionals and the public need to communicate better. The teams with the most insightful projects may be invited to a future **convening** to share their solutions with real-world professionals.

Q: How much time will this competition require?

A: Mission duration varies by team intensity.

- **Team Requirements:** 3+ Students and 1 Faculty Sponsor.
- **Estimated Commitment:** Based on our pilot groups, expect to spend between **2 to 5 hours per week** throughout the competition window. Your "Agent Brown" check-ins can help you stay on track if you feel stuck.

Any additional questions can be directed to welcome@operationoutbreak.org.