



Briefing on Novel (Swine) Influenza & Global Influenza Pandemic

General Update

- The alert level set by the World Health Organization (WHO) remains at level 6 (i.e. a confirmed pandemic.)
- The total number of confirmed UK swine flu cases currently stands at 2,506.

Case Numbers

As of 07.00 GMT, 19 June 2009, the World Health Organisation stated that 90 countries had officially reported 44,287 cases of influenza A (H1N1) infection, including 180 deaths.

The total number of UK swine flu cases now stands at 2,506. There have now been almost 2,000 cases in England. Of these, 1,006 cases have occurred in the West Midlands and 450 in London.

UK Steps

Government advice remains as follows: "If you have flu-like symptoms and have recently returned from Mexico or another affected area, or been with someone who has, stay at home and contact your GP or NHS Direct on 0845 4647 or NHS 24 (Scotland 08454 242424). Do not go into your GP surgery, or to a hospital, as you may spread the disease to others." Individuals will be assessed and, if necessary, testing and treatment will be provided.

Important Public Information Resources

The Department of Health has set up a swine flu information line for the public on 0800 1 513 513 (or 0044 207 928 1010 from overseas).

Key internet links for public information, are as follows:

NHS Choices: <http://ww1.nhs.uk/AlertsEmergencies/Pages/Pandemicflualert.aspx>

NHS Direct: <http://www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk/zone.aspx?zonename=HomePage>

NHS 24 Scotland: www.nhs24.com.

These central resources are comprehensive, authoritative and regularly updated. They provide all the necessary advice on the hot topics of the day - including influenza symptoms, hygiene, what to do when ill, what to do about seeking help, how to prevent infections, advice on travel and returning from abroad etc.

Guidance on responding to a pandemic

The HPA has been involved in the development of information and guidance on improving UK preparedness for a future influenza pandemic and supporting the Government, the NHS and the public in responding in the most effective way. Sector-specific guidance has been produced for those in health sector and non NHS sector roles.

The principles of this guidance are applicable to the current outbreaks of swine flu, although where specific guidance for swine flu has been published, this should be referred to in the



first instance. It should be borne in mind that the existing pandemic guidance was prepared in the context of the evidence available and terminology at the time of writing.

- Pandemic flu guidance for businesses
http://www.hpa.org.uk/web/HPAwebFile/HPAweb_C/1241246622785
- Pandemic flu guidance for funeral directors
http://www.hpa.org.uk/web/HPAwebFile/HPAweb_C/1238055330018
- Pandemic flu guidance for cleaning staff and refuse collectors in non-health care settings
http://www.hpa.org.uk/web/HPAwebFile/HPAweb_C/1238055330805
- Pandemic flu guidance for Fire and Rescue service
http://www.hpa.org.uk/web/HPAwebFile/HPAweb_C/1238055334226
- Pandemic flu guidance for the hospitality industry
http://www.hpa.org.uk/web/HPAwebFile/HPAweb_C/1238055335039
- Pandemic flu guidance for the police service
http://www.hpa.org.uk/web/HPAwebFile/HPAweb_C/1238055335622
- Pandemic flu guidance for environmental health practitioners
http://www.hpa.org.uk/web/HPAwebFile/HPAweb_C/1238055336212
- Infection control - how to reduce the spread of pandemic flu: Guidance for schools
http://www.hpa.org.uk/web/HPAwebFile/HPAweb_C/1238055336460
- Infection control - how to reduce the spread of pandemic flu: guidance for further education colleges and higher education institutions
http://www.hpa.org.uk/web/HPAwebFile/HPAweb_C/1238055336699
- Pandemic flu: Guidance for infection control in critical care (PDF, 416 KB)
http://www.hpa.org.uk/web/HPAwebFile/HPAweb_C/1238055329642

Guidance for health professionals on swine flu

There are some specific updates that are aimed mainly at Medical personnel regarding swine flu. These include:

- Guidance on the management of contacts of a probable or confirmed case on swine influenza on an aircraft
http://www.hpa.org.uk/web/HPAwebFile/HPAweb_C/1243928267943
- Algorithms for the management of patients with influenza-like illness depending on their contact with known cases of swine flu
http://www.hpa.org.uk/web/HPAwebFile/HPAweb_C/1240732819361
http://www.hpa.org.uk/web/HPAwebFile/HPAweb_C/1244023923195
- Summary of prescribing guidance for the treatment and prophylaxis of influenza-like illness:



CONTAINMENT PHASE

http://www.hpa.org.uk/web/HPAwebFile/HPAweb_C/1243581475043

- Contact details for health professionals Flu Response Centre:
http://www.hpa.org.uk/web/HPAwebFile/HPAweb_C/1243150121676

THE MOST IMPORTANT piece of advice about preventing the spread of influenza concerns personal hygiene, and the following advice comes from the NHS Choices website.

Remember, preventing the spread of germs is the single most effective way to slow the spread of diseases such as swine flu. You should always:

- *Use tissues to cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze (CATCH IT)*
- *Place used tissues in a bin as soon as possible (BIN IT)*
- *Ensure everyone washes their hands regularly with soap and water (KILL IT)*
- *Clean surfaces regularly to get rid of germs (KILL IT)*

Quarantine Policy

Guidance regarding exclusion from work was issued by HPA on 7 May and can be found at:
http://www.hpa.org.uk/web/HPAweb&HPAwebStandard/HPAweb_C/1241418706890.

Latest Travel Advice

Current advice is available at <http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travelling-and-living-overseas/> .

Further useful advice is provided on the HPA website at:

http://www.hpa.org.uk/webc/HPAwebFile/HPAweb_C/1240986139568

http://www.hpa.org.uk/webc/HPAwebFile/HPAweb_C/1240986139615