

SCRUTINY COMMISSION FOR HEALTH ISSUES	Agenda Item No. 6
14 JULY 2009	Public Report

Report of the *Medical Director – NHS Peterborough*

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SWINE FLU

1 RECOMMENDATION

This report recommends that the Commission

- 1.1 Notes the current national and local situation regarding swine flu and the actions taken by NHS Peterborough, in conjunction with partner agencies, to ensure a robust NHS and multi-agency response to the swine flu pandemic.

2 TIMETABLE FOR DECISIONS

- 2.1 N/A

3 PREVIOUS DECISIONS RELEVANT TO REPORT

- 3.1 NHS Peterborough Board approval of NHS Peterborough Major Incident & Influenza Pandemic Contingency Plan.

4 RELATES TO PCT STRATEGIC PLAN AND GOALS

- 4.1 Business continuity

5 INTERNATIONAL & NATIONAL UPDATE

- 5.1 WHO moved to Phase 6 on 11 June
- 5.2 As of 30 June 2009, there are now 6,538 laboratory confirmed cases and 918 clinically presumed cases of A/H1N1 in the UK. Onward human to human transmission has been confirmed in the UK. Transmission of infection with influenza A H1N1v has been occurring in the community in the UK, and there is evidence of widespread community transmission in Glasgow and parts of the West Midlands, London, east Berkshire, and west Hertfordshire.
- 5.3 In most cases, swine flu is a mild self-limiting illness although a small minority of cases have been more serious. There are three confirmed deaths linked to Swine Flu in the UK.

- 5.4 The aims & objectives of the UK response are to:
1. Prevent, slow or limit the spread of the disease
 2. Protect UK citizens and visitors against the health and wider consequences as far as this is possible
 3. Organise and adapt the health and social care systems to provide treatment and support for the large numbers likely to suffer from influenza or its complications whilst maintaining other essential care
 4. Support the continuity of essential services and protect critical infrastructure as far as possible
 5. Support the continuation of everyday activities as far as practical
 6. Uphold the rule of law and the democratic process
 7. Instil and maintain trust and confidence by ensuring that the public and the media are engaged and well informed
 8. Promote a return to normality and the restoration of disrupted services at the earliest opportunity

6 LOCAL SITUATION

- 6.1 As of 30 June 2009, there are 3 confirmed cases in Peterborough. We can expect to see increasing numbers of cases over the next few weeks. These will continue to be assessed and treated in accordance with national guidance, which includes clear clinical algorithms.

7 NHS PETERBOROUGH RESPONSE

- 7.1 NHS Peterborough has maintained a pro-active, proportionate response to this evolving pandemic since the first cases were reported in Mexico in late April. This response has been in conjunction with National, Regional and local resilience civil contingency systems and in accordance with NHS Peterborough's Influenza Pandemic Contingency Plan.
- 7.2 Outputs delivered to date:
- Reiteration of basic flu advice and general hygiene messages to the community
 - 24/7 monitoring of local situation & response to clinical and other enquiries (via Incident Control Room and on-call arrangements)
 - Briefing & support for local clinical staff
 - Arrangements for the delivery of anti-viral medication as appropriate to the local population, including the development and testing of assessment and collection points
 - Regular liaison / reporting to appropriate authorities

7.3 Current work-streams:

- Preparation for moving from a containment to mitigation phase of the pandemic
- Preparation for immunisation (vaccine under development)
- NHS business continuity / resilience

7.4 There has been excellent co-operation both within and between local and regional organisations throughout this incident, including NHS Peterborough, Peterborough Community Services, Peterborough City Council, NHS East of England and local health & social care providers.

8 IMPLICATIONS / IMPACT

8.1 Financial – being monitored

8.2 NHS Peterborough priorities – significant opportunity costs for a number of staff

8.3 Impact on Patients – protection of the public health of the population

9 DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR ADVICE: Dr Andy Liggins

Other contact officer(s): PPCT Flu Team

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