

Improving health together



Swine flu

Special Edition Update
Issue 2

Welcome to this edition of Improving Health Together, a public health factsheet focusing on the issue of Influenza A H1N1 (swine flu).

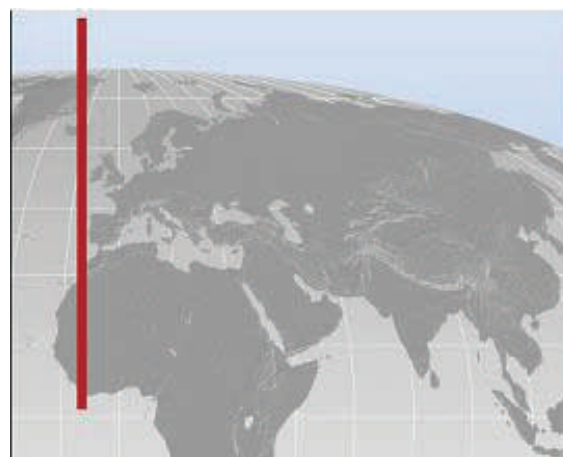
The factsheet signposts to the latest guidance, advice and resources to support health professionals in their recognition, investigation and initial management of suspected or confirmed cases of swine flu.

General advice

- ◆ Containment of respiratory secretions is essential.
- ◆ Encourage people to cover their mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing.
- ◆ You could consider providing a foot operated lidded pedal bin for used tissues.
- ◆ You could consider providing alcohol handrub for hand decontamination for people with symptoms of flu.
- ◆ Display flu public health information posters in prominent places.
- ◆ Patients prescribed with antivirals should stay at home and send a flu-friend to the antiviral collection point on their behalf.

Key points

- ◆ Standard infection control principles and droplet precautions must be used for patients with or suspected of having swine flu.
- ◆ Good hand hygiene among staff and patients is vital for the protection of both parties.
- ◆ Good respiratory hygiene is essential.
- ◆ The use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) should be proportionate to the risk of contact with respiratory secretions and other body fluids, and should depend on the type of work or procedure being undertaken.



Hand hygiene is the single most important practice needed to reduce the transmission of infection in healthcare settings and is an essential element of standard infection control principles.

Useful contacts



A new self-care service giving people with pandemic swine flu symptoms fast access to information and antivirals.

www.pandemicflu.direct.gov.uk

Telephone: **0800 1 513 100**

Textphone: **0800 1 513 200** (for people who are deaf or hard of hearing)

- ◆ School enquiries should be directed to the Yorkshire and Humber Health Protection Unit on **01904 567675**.
- ◆ Members of the public can get more information about swine flu symptoms from www.nhs.uk and the Swine Flu Information Line on **0800 1 513 513**.

Websites

Staff with NHS computer access can visit the PCT **intranet** site for key documents and links to external resources relevant to the outbreak of swine flu: www.nypct.nhs.uk/Directorates/PublicHealth/SwineFlu.htm

Staff with non-NHS computer access please visit the external PCT **internet** site www.northyorkshireandyork.nhs.uk/AdviceInformation/MexicanFlu.htm, or the links found in the table below.

National Pandemic Flu Service —for people with pandemic swine flu symptoms	www.pandemicflu.dir.ect.gov.uk
NHS Choices —swine flu information	www.nhs.uk
Infection Control—information and resources for Healthcare Professionals NHS North Yorkshire and York Infection Prevention and Control	www.northyorkshireandyork.nhs.uk
Latest information on swine flu and pandemic flu —guidance and advice documents to support health professionals in their recognition, investigation and initial management of suspected or confirmed cases of swine flu have been prepared by the Health Protection Agency	www.hpa.org.uk
The Department of Health is working to support NHS preparedness and to reduce the impact of pandemic flu on the UK population —Department of Health	www.dh.gov.uk
Travel Advice —Foreign and Commonwealth Office	www.fco.gov.uk
North Yorkshire's Multi-agency Pandemic Influenza Contingency Plan —North Yorkshire Local Resilience Forum	www.nysp.org.uk

Key Documents

Department of Health and the Health Protection Agency (November 2007) *Pandemic Influenza: Guidance for infection control in hospitals and primary care settings*.

The most up-to-date version of the full guidance document via the Department of Health website at www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publichealth/Flu/PandemicFlu/

Department of Health and the Health Protection Agency (September 2007) *Pandemic Flu: A summary of guidance for infection control in healthcare settings*

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publichealth/Flu/PandemicFlu/DH_078752

Department of Health (2 July 2009) Swine Flu Pandemic: From containment to treatment—guidance for the NHS

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/DH_102019

Order your free resources

These are the resources recommended by your Public Health team for swine flu.



Department of Health

Publications Orderline 0300 123 1002

www.orderline.dh.gov.uk/

Coughs and Sneezes Spread Diseases poster

Download a copy of the Catch It, Bin It, Kill It poster at www.dh.gov.uk/en/index.htm

Important Information about Swine Flu leaflet—Product Code 294591

An easy read version is also available—Product code 294591/ER



Changes to—Pandemic Influenza Community Infection Control Policy

The PCT and North Yorkshire and Humber Health Protection Unit have revised the 'Pandemic Influenza Community Infection Control Policy, Version 2.00—July 2009' (North Yorkshire Community Infection Prevention and Control Policies and Guidance), to incorporate the Department of Health and Health Protection Agency, November 2007, 'Pandemic Influenza Guidance for Infection Control in Hospitals and Primary Care Settings'. It can be accessed at www.northyorkshireandyork.nhs.uk/AdviceInformation/InfectionControl/PoliciesAndGuidance/community.htm.

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