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Our Ref: HSS (MD) 25/2009

Date: 26 June 2009

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Dear Colleague

PREPARATIONS FOR PANDEMIC INFLUENZA (RCP, June 2009)

I am writing to draw your attention to a recent document published by the Royal College of Physicians (London), entitled, *Preparations for pandemic influenza: Guidance for hospital medical specialties on adaptations needed for a pandemic influenza outbreak*.

This document complements *Pandemic Influenza: Managing Demand and Capacity in Health Care Organisations (Surge)* which was produced by Department of Health (London) and subsequently endorsed on 15 May by the Minister for use in Northern Ireland. In his letter to the service at that time, Dr Michael McBride, Acting Permanent Secretary asked the Public Health Agency to lead work with other HSC organisations to develop appropriate implementation plans for Northern Ireland, based on this guidance.

Dr Diane Corrigan, Consultant in Public Health, PHA, is leading this work, which has included a recent workshop which staff from your organisation may have attended. At the workshop, members considered that the recent document from the Royal College of Physicians provided a valuable planning tool, in that it adopts a systematic approach and has the added weight of Royal College endorsement.

I am therefore commending the RCP guidance on *Preparations for pandemic influenza*, subject to any variations required because of local circumstances in NI. In order to further progress this work, I have asked the PHA to convene a workshop with general physicians.

Yours sincerely



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Acting Chief Medical Officer