

# PANDEMIC INFLUENZA (A) H1N1 OUTBREAK 2009

## INFORMATION UPDATE

The Public Health Agency has established a Pandemic Influenza Planning Group to assess and ensure all Registered Establishments and Agencies are in a position to manage both the current Flu Level 5 status and respond to a Flu Pandemic (A) H1N1 situation. Each Health and Social Care Trust is establishing a local Flu Pandemic Community Planning Group and will be in touch with you to secure your participation in this work.

Central to this will be the need to ensure you have access to the right information and training, access to Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and access to guidance on how to manage residents/clients who develop symptoms in a pandemic situation. In addition, you will be expected to have in place a contingency or business continuity plan to ensure your service continues to be delivered in the current Level 5, containment phase, and in the event of a Pandemic phase.

### 1. Communication

We are aware that you are receiving a lot of information already and we want to streamline the communication, as detailed on the attached Communication Flow diagram. It is important that you confirm with the Trust, in which you are geographically located, your email address and whether or not you have access to the Internet. (Trusts may be in contact with you directly seeking this information).

### 2. Information/Guidance

Information and Guidance is updated regularly and is available on the following websites:

- RQIA [www.rqia.org.uk](http://www.rqia.org.uk)
- PHA [www.publichealth.hscni.net](http://www.publichealth.hscni.net)
- DHSSPS [www.dhsspsni.gov.uk](http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk)

Guidance has recently been developed on providing Care in the Community and on returning to work. It is important that you follow and implement the guidance which has been developed specifically for Northern Ireland.

You are advised to check websites regularly for updates.

### **3. Training – Infection Control**

Trusts have opened up their training programmes to Independent Sector Providers and will continue to run programmes throughout June/July 2009. *It is vitally important that you avail of this training and that the staff members you send are able to cascade the training within your organisation.*

An E-Learning Training Programme has been developed and will be available on CD-ROM and email from mid-June 2009. Information on this will be available from RQIA and your local Trust.

### **4. PPE – Personal Protective Equipment**

An initial assessment of PPE for all Registered Establishments and Agencies in Northern Ireland has been made. We will be communicating with you regarding how this will be procured and distributed over the next few weeks.

### **5. Contingency/Business Continuity Plans**

A common framework for contingency/continuity planning has been developed. A number of Workshops will be run in June/July 2009 to ensure an integrated approach to service continuity planning between Statutory and Independent Service Providers. You will have the opportunity to use the framework and seek support to develop your own plan. The dates for the Workshops are:

| <b>DATE</b>                | <b>TRUST</b>   | <b>VENUE</b>                            | <b>TIME</b>          |
|----------------------------|----------------|---|----------------------|
| 17 <sup>th</sup> June 2009 | <b>SHSCT</b>   | Craigavon Civic Centre                  | 10.30 am to 12.30 pm |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> June 2009 | <b>WHSCT</b>   | Silverbirch Hotel, Omagh                | 10.30 am to 12.30 pm |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> June 2009 | <b>SETRUST</b> | Millbrook Lodge                         | 10.30 am to 12.30 pm |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> July 2009  | <b>BHSCT</b>   | Knockbracken Hall                       | 10.30 am to 12.30 pm |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> July 2009  | <b>NHSCT</b>   | Ballymena Showgrounds (Des Allen Suite) | 10.30 am to 12.30 pm |

You will receive communication from your local Trust with further detail on the Workshops. I would ask you to ensure that at least one member of your staff attends and that this person can support you in the development of your plan. Completed contingency/continuity plans for each Registered Establishment and Agency will be required by 28<sup>th</sup> July 2009 and should be forwarded to both RQIA and your local Trust.

I hope this information is helpful and any questions can be raised through the named contact at your local Trust or through RQIA.

**MARGARET KELLY**

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**CHAIR**

**Pandemic Influenza (A) H1N1 Planning Group  
- Independent Sector**