

From the Acting Chief Medical Officer
Dr Elizabeth Mitchell



Department of
**Health, Social Services
and Public Safety**

www.dhsspsni.gov.uk

AN ROINN

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

MÁNNYSTRIE O

**Poustie, Resydènter Heisin
an Fowk Siccar**

HSS(MD) 27/2009

To:

Chief Executive, HSC Board
Chief Executive, Public Health Agency
Chief Executives, HSC Trusts
Chief Executive, Patient and Client Council
Chief Executive, Business Services Organisation

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Your Ref:
Our Ref: HSS(MD)27/2009
Date: 29 June 2009

Dear Colleague

Pandemic Influenza: Guidance on preparing Maternity Services

Pandemic Influenza: Guidance on preparing Maternity Services has been based on guidance prepared by the Department of Health (London) and tailored to fit the context of Health and Social Care in Northern Ireland.

This guidance is the latest in the suite of documents produced by the Department in preparation for pandemic influenza and is available on the DHSSPS website at www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/pandemic_influenza_-_guidance_on_preparing_maternity_services.pdf

Maternity services are a key area for consideration in any influenza pandemic. This is particularly relevant in the current influenza A/H1N1 pandemic, where pregnancy appears to be a risk factor for more severe disease.

Action required

I would ask the Public Health Agency to lead, working with HSC Board as part of Agency and Board's overall response to this incident and pandemic flu planning, a piece of work to develop appropriate implementation plans for Northern Ireland based on this guidance. I would ask the Agency and Board to confirm to the Department by the end of July 2009, that appropriate measures have been agreed to ensure there is a clear plan to implement this guidance in response to any surge in pandemic flu cases in Northern Ireland in the months ahead.



