

From the Chief Medical Officer
Dr Michael McBride



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

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AN ROINN

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

MÄNNYSTRIE O

**Poustie, Resydënter Heisin
an Fowk Siccar**

HSS(MD)27/2010

Members of the Swine Flu Programme Board
Chief Executive of HSC Board – *(for distribution to relevant staff)*
Family Practitioner Services Leads – *(for cascade to Out of Hours Services)*
All General Practitioners (including GP Locums) – *(for onward distribution to practice staff)*
Chief Executive, Public Health Agency - *(for onward distribution to relevant staff)*
All Community Pharmacists
Chief Executives of HSC Trusts *(for onward distribution to relevant staff)*
Chief Executive, RQIA – *(for onward transmission to all independent providers including independent hospitals)*
Regional Pharmaceutical Procurement Service
Chief Officer, CCaNNI
Mr Calum McDonald, NIPS Healthcare Lead

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Your Ref:
Our Ref: HSS(MD)27/2010
Date: 20 July 2010

Dear Colleague

THE 2009 INFLUENZA PANDEMIC

The Independent Review of the UK Response to the 2009 Influenza Pandemic, led by Dame Deidre Hine, was published on Thursday 1 July. This review focuses on the UK-wide strategy used to manage the consequences of the pandemic, but not the operational aspects of the response. Dame Deirdre reports that the response to the 2009 pandemic was 'proportionate and effective'. In addition, she commends the 'dedication and professionalism' of Health and Social Care staff throughout the UK in delivering a 'highly satisfactory' response. The report can be accessed on the DHSSPS website at: http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/the2009influenzapandemic_acc.pdf

I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate this commendation and thank all those whose efforts ensured that the HSC coped with the 'swine flu' pandemic. You continued to deliver high quality care to all patients and this was achieved through your leadership, dedication and hard work. This achievement is all the more impressive given the relative infancy of the post-RPA structures.

Although no new pandemic influenza cases have been reported in Northern Ireland since February, pandemic H1N1 vaccine continues to be given to people at high risk of severe disease, as this virus has not gone away. It is possible the virus or a drifted strain may

