

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) 35/2009

To: Chief Executives, HSC Board / Public Health Agency
Chief Executives, HSC Trusts
Director of Public Health, Public Health Agency
Assistant Director of Public Health, Health Protection
Director of Nursing, Public Health Agency
Directors/Heads of Pharmaceutical Services, HSC
Board / HSC Trusts
Chief Executive, Business Services Organisation
Primary Care Pandemic Flu Lead, HSC Board
Medical Directors, HSC Trusts
Nursing Directors, HSC Trusts
Northern Ireland General Practitioners' Committee
Pharmaceutical Contractors' Committee
Family Practitioner Service Leads, HSC Board, *for
cascade to*
-All Community Pharmacists
-All General Practitioners
-GP Out of Hours Services
NI Sessional GP Association
Medical Director, RQIA
Medical Director, NI Ambulance Service
PHA EOC
Chief Officer of Prison Healthcare
Chief Officer of Ambulance Service

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Your Ref:
Our Ref: HSS(MD) 35/2009
Date: 29 July 2009

PANDEMIC INFLUENZA: GUIDANCE ON THE PROVISION OF HEALTHCARE IN A PRIMARY AND COMMUNITY CARE SETTING IN NORTHERN IRELAND

Dear Colleague

Pandemic Influenza: Guidance on the provision of healthcare in a primary and community care setting in Northern Ireland 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 will be available on the DHSSPS website at: www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/public_health-swine-flu-guidance-for-professional-staff.htm

Primary and community care are key areas for consideration in any influenza pandemic and particularly in the current influenza A/H1N1 pandemic.

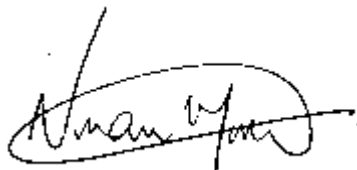
Action required

The Health and Social Care Board will take the lead in implementation, working with the Public Health Agency and Business Support Organisation as part of their joint response to the swine flu pandemic and wider pandemic flu planning. We would ask the Board to confirm to the Department, by 31 August 2009, that plans are in place across the primary and community care sectors to implement this guidance in response to a surge in pandemic flu cases in Northern Ireland in the months ahead. Please forward to the office of the CMO.

Yours sincerely



DR ELIZABETH MITCHELL
Acting Chief Medical Officer



DR N MORROW
Chief Pharmaceutical Officer



MR M E BRADLEY
Chief Nursing Officer

c.c. Dr Michael McBride
Dr Liz Mitchell
Dr Miriam McCarthy
Dr Liz Reaney
Christine Jendoubi
John Farrell

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This letter is available at www.dhsspsni.gov.uk and also on the DHSSPS Extranet which can be accessed directly at <http://extranet.dhsspsni.gov.uk> or by going through the HPSS Web at <http://www.n-i.nhs.uk> and clicking on DHSSPS.