

*From the Chief Medical Officer*

Dr Michael McBride

**URGENT COMMUNICATION**

**HSS(MD)41/2008**



Department of

**Health, Social Services  
and Public Safety**

[www.dhsspsni.gov.uk](http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk)

AN ROINN

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta  
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

MÄNNYSTRIE O

**Poustie, Resydënter Heisin  
an Fowk Siccar**

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Our Ref: HSS(MD)41/2008  
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**ISSUE OF REVISED NORTHERN IRELAND CONTINGENCY PLAN FOR  
HEALTH RESPONSE FOR AN INFLUENZA PANDEMIC AND SUPPORTING  
GUIDANCE**

Dear Colleagues

I wish to make you aware that the Department has issued an updated version of the Northern Ireland Contingency Plan for the Health Response to an Influenza Pandemic. This document is accompanied by a range of supporting guidance to assist pandemic planning in acute hospitals; the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service; mental health services and social care.

The documents are available on the Departmental website and can be accessed at: [http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/phealth/php/infectious\\_diseases/pandemicflu](http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/phealth/php/infectious_diseases/pandemicflu)

The Department's revised guidance reflects the UK National Framework and the implications for the Health and Social Care system in Northern Ireland. The guidance highlights that contingency planning is now occurring at the upper limits of expected clinical attack and complication rates to improve resilience. Other key issues are the development of the National Pandemic Flu Line Service and

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