

*From the Chief Medical Officer*  
Dr Henrietta Campbell CB



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

An Roinn

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta  
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

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Dear Colleague

### **Information for the Public and Health Professionals on Pandemic Influenza**

As you will be aware the Department has been working in conjunction with the other UK Health Departments on contingency planning for an influenza pandemic. Plans are at an advanced stage and an updated version of our plan, along with ancillary guidance, has been placed on our website.

We are aware that GPs and Pharmacists have regular interface with the public and are frequently being asked questions about pandemic influenza. We are including with this letter a range of communication materials for display in your surgeries and other premises. These materials are as follows:

A3 Poster -

Leaflet – Pandemic Flu: Key Facts (summary information)

Leaflet – Pandemic Flu: Important Information for You and Your Family (general information)

The information available on pandemic influenza and avian influenza changes very regularly and we are advising all health professionals to regularly check the DHSSPS website to ensure they have access to the most up-to-date information. These details have also been included on the Public Information leaflet along with details of the DHSSPS Helpline number which will be activated when necessary.

Work will continue on contingency planning for an Influenza Pandemic and health professionals are advised to regularly check the DHSSPS website for updates on the current situation. In addition, up-to-date information is available on the HPA website and the WHO website.

I trust you will find these materials helpful in dealing with queries from patients and the public.

Yours sincerely

**DR HENRIETTA CAMPBELL  
CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER**

Please find overleaf useful website links.

Useful website links:

DHSSPS Home Page – [www.dhsspsni.gov.uk](http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk)

DHSSPS Pandemic Influenza information link:  
<http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/phealth/pandemic/pandemic.asp>

DHSSPS Avian Influenza information link:  
[http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/phealth/docs/avian\\_influenza.pdf](http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/phealth/docs/avian_influenza.pdf)

Health Protection Agency website:  
[www.hpa.org.uk](http://www.hpa.org.uk)

World Health Organisation (WHO) website:  
<http://www.who.int/en/>