

International Phases and their significance for the UK

International phases		Significance for UK	
Interpandemic Period			
1	No new influenza virus subtypes detected in humans		
2	Animal influenza virus subtype poses substantial risk	UK not affected UK has strong travel/trade connections with affected country UK affected	
Pandemic Alert Period			
3	Human infection(s) with a new subtype, but no new human to human spread to a close contact	UK not affected	
4	Small cluster(s) with limited human-to-human transmission but spread is highly localised, suggesting that the virus is not well adapted to humans	UK has strong travel/trade connections with affected country UK affected	
5	Large cluster(s) but human-to-human spread still localised, suggesting that the virus is becoming increasingly better adapted to humans		
Pandemic Period			
6	Increased and sustained transmission in general population	Alert level	
		1	Virus/cases only outside the UK
		2	Virus isolated in the UK
		3	Outbreak(s) in the UK
		4	Widespread activity across the UK
Post Pandemic Period			
	Return to interpandemic period		

Patients at high-risk of influenza-related complications*

CLINICAL RISK CATEGORY	EXAMPLES
Aged 65 years or older	
Chronic respiratory disease, including asthma	This includes chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) including chronic bronchitis and emphysema and such conditions as bronchiectasis, cystic fibrosis, interstitial lung fibrosis, pneumoconiosis and bronchopulmonary dysplasia (BPD). Asthma requiring continuous or repeated use of inhaled or systemic steroids or with previous exacerbations requiring hospital admission. Children who have previously been admitted to hospital for lower respiratory tract disease
Chronic heart disease	This includes congenital heart disease, hypertension with cardiac complications, chronic heart failure and individuals requiring regular medication and/or follow-up for ischaemic heart disease.
Chronic renal disease	Including nephrotic syndrome, chronic renal failure and individuals requiring renal transplantation.
Chronic liver disease.	Including cirrhosis
Diabetes	Diabetes mellitus requiring insulin or oral hypoglycaemic drugs.
Immunosuppression	Due to disease or treatment. Including asplenia or splenic dysfunction, HIV infection at all stages, malignancy. Patients undergoing chemotherapy leading to immunosuppression. Individuals on or likely to be on systemic steroids for more than a month at a dose equivalent to prednisolone at 20mg or more per day (any age) or for children under 20kg a dose of 1mg or more per kg per day. <i>However, some immunocompromised patients may have a suboptimal immunological response to the vaccine.</i>
Long-stay residential care homes residents	This does <i>not</i> include prisons, young offender institutions, university halls of residence.
Others	Doctors retain discretion in identifying additional individual patients who they recognise as at high risk of serious complications should they develop influenza; for example children on long term aspirin who are at increased risk of Reye's syndrome.

* The high risk groups described in this Appendix are largely based on data from interpandemic influenza. During the course of a pandemic, the definition of 'high risk groups' may differ. If so, details of the 'high risk' patient group will be altered according to relevant clinico-epidemiological data. Users are strongly advised to refer to the latest version of these guidelines at all times.