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**To: NHS England Regional and
Area Team colleagues as listed
overleaf**

28th October 2013

Dear colleagues

**NHS England Operating Framework for Managing the Response to
Pandemic Influenza**

Today NHS England has published its Operating Framework for Managing the Response to Pandemic Influenza ([see here](#)) Gateway reference **00225**. This document sets out the requirements on NHS England at an Area Team, Regional and National level in planning, response and recovery phases.

Planning needs to take account of the preparedness not just of individual organisations but the health and social care economy as a whole and, as part of this, every Local Health Resilience Partnership should ensure that there are robust and integrated plans in place for responding to, and recovering from, a pandemic.

Planning is well underway for the Tier One Pandemic Exercise, *Exercise Cygnus*, in 2014. The exercise will look at the preparedness of the system with involvement at Ministerial level, including a Cabinet Office Briefing Rooms (COBR) Committee meeting, and at senior official levels across NHS England, Public Health England and the Department of Health.

The exercise will see the involvement of the corporate team, all four regions and a significant number of area teams within NHS England, along with engagement of multi-agency partners through a number of Local Resilience Fora who will be informed by the Cabinet Office separately.

NHS England needs to ensure that we are as prepared as possible to enable a response at all levels and request that you take the opportunity of the publication of this operating framework to assure yourselves that you have the required elements in place within your area.

Further detailed work is being undertaken, including the requirement for the direct commissioning of Antiviral Collection Points using a community model. This will be made available at the earliest opportunity.

The corporate Emergency Preparedness, Resilience and Response (EPRR) team will keep Heads of EPRR informed of changes as and when they occur and the wider system will be provided with a single source of updates through the 'Pandemic Influenza – NHS Guidance on the current and future preparedness in support of an outbreak', which will be published on 31 October at <http://www.england.nhs.uk/ourwork/gov/epr/> Regional and Area Team Directors are asked to take note of this guidance – which will be updated on a quarterly basis - as part of their ongoing preparedness planning.

Yours faithfully



Sarah Pinto-Duschinsky
Director NHS Operations and Delivery

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