Pandemic Influenza

Guidance to the NHS on current and future preparedness for an influenza pandemic

Publications Gateway Reference 02616
Purpose of this Guidance


- Significant amounts of activity is directed at pandemic preparedness in the UK and globally.

- The purpose of this document is to inform the reader of key documentation from NHS England, Public Health England (PHE) and the Department of Health (DH) related to pandemic influenza preparedness and response.

- It describes the current status of relevant guidance, frameworks and strategies; and provides a strategic overview of work that will be carried out by the above organisations.
The published national guidance on pandemic influenza provides advice and support to NHS organisations in the UK.

Throughout ongoing work to update and re-publish some guidance, the documents remain valid regarding the information and advice provided on roles and responsibilities during an influenza pandemic.

The following slides identify published documents on pandemic influenza, and describe the status of that guidance.
International and UK Government


- In July 2013, the UK Government Civil Contingencies Secretariat (CCS) published revised guidance on the production of local multi-agency pandemic plans to support the development and revision of local multi-agency plans([www.gov.uk/pandemic-flu#guidance-for-local-planners](www.gov.uk/pandemic-flu#guidance-for-local-planners)).
The UK Influenza Pandemic Preparedness Strategy was published in 2011 to reflect learning from the 2009/10 pandemic (www.gov.uk/government/publications/responding-to-a-uk-flu-pandemic)


- UK Pandemic Influenza Communications Strategy (2012) is a UK government strategy of communication (www.gov.uk/government/publications/communications-strategy-for-uk-flu-pandemics)

- STATUS: The overarching strategy remains fit for purpose. The other two pieces are being reviewed and updated.
Public Health England (PHE)

- Public Health England (PHE) has published their planning arrangements outlining their responsibility for:
  - ownership and management of the countermeasure stockpiles
  - ownership of the Advanced Purchase Agreement (APA) for pandemic specific vaccine
  - ownership of the National Pandemic Influenza Service (NPFS) contract
  - ongoing public health responsibilities around surveillance, epidemiology, expert advice and public health.

- **STATUS**: PHE published their strategic framework and response plan in August 2014:

It sets out the roles and responsibilities of NHS England in planning for, responding to and recovering from pandemic influenza.

It supports NHS England in working with providers of NHS commissioned care, through commissioners, to support the continuation and refinement of robust mechanisms to ensure flexible, appropriate plans are in place to respond to pandemic influenza.

**STATUS**: This guidance has been reviewed; an updated version has been drafted and will be published in 2017.
NHS England

- **Human Resources**: NHS Employers have drafted HR guidance for use in an influenza pandemic.
- **Business Continuity**: internal business continuity guidance specific to pandemic influenza has been drafted for NHS England.
- **Pandemic influenza preparedness stockpile**: work is continuing with PHE and NHS Supply Chain on the management and distribution of the national countermeasure stockpiles.
- **Surge and capacity management**: surge and escalation guidance for an influenza pandemic is being developed with the relevant professional bodies and ethicists.
- Specific guidance is being produced for **primary care providers**
- The existing guidance for **CCG’s** has been reviewed and updated to reflect organisational changes.

**Status**: much of the above guidance was tested in October 2016 during Exercise Cygnus and will be published in due course.
Exercise Cygnus: a tier one exercise

• Phase one of this cross-Government tier one pandemic influenza exercise took place in May 2014. Phase two took place in October 2016.

• Many of the pieces of guidance that have been drafted or are in development were tested through the exercise, with the aim that they will be published following any required revisions.

• The exercise was led by DH with strong engagement from PHE, NHS England, and other stakeholders. The Devolved Administrations of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland tested their component parts alongside the core exercise.

• Following the exercise a report will be published establishing the elements of the response that worked well and areas for improvement.
Links with wider EPRR

NHS England has published a suite of wider emergency planning documents that support pandemic influenza preparedness and response.

These are available on the NHS England website: www.england.nhs.uk/ourwork/gov/eprr/