

Note of the National Escalation Pressures Panel meeting

Thursday 21 November 2019, Wellington House

Panel attendees: Steve Powis (Chair – NHS E/I), Derek Alderson (Royal College of Surgeons), Cliff Mann (NHS E/I), Yvonne Doyle (Public Health England), Pauline Philip (National Director for Emergency and Elective Care, NHS E/I), Prem Premachandran (Care Quality Commission), Helen Stokes-Lampard (Royal College of General Practitioners), Andrew Goddard (Royal College of Acute Physicians), Adrian Boyle (Royal College of Emergency Medicine), Keith Willett (NHS E/I), Hilary Garrett (NHS E/I).

1. The chair welcomed the panel for the first meeting of winter 2019/20. The Terms of Reference from previous meetings were reviewed, and panel members agreed there were no updates needed. Ways of working and frequency of meetings were agreed.
2. The Royal Colleges provided updates on current levels of operational pressures across each of their specific areas.
3. Public Health England advised that latest published data showed some indicators were starting to rise above the baseline threshold. The panel were advised that H3N2 is the main strain affecting all age groups. The panel were also advised that this is a different strain to the Australian flu seen earlier in the year.
4. The National Director for Emergency and Elective Care updated the group on the extent of winter planning that was progressing, including the national stocktake exercise and other operational preparation underway. The panel noted progress and welcomed further updates at future meetings.
5. The chair concluded the meeting, and all members thanked Helen Stokes-Lampard for all of her work with the panel, noting this would be her last NEPP meeting before stepping down. The panel will welcome Martin Marshall to future meetings as the representative for the Royal College of General Practitioners.