

Pandemic Influenza

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

Publications Gateway Reference **02616**



Purpose of this Guidance

- Pandemic influenza remains the top risk on the UK Cabinet Office National Risk Register of Civil Emergencies (2015) due the high likelihood and potential impact of a pandemic (www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-risk-register-for-civil-emergencies-2015-edition)
- 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.

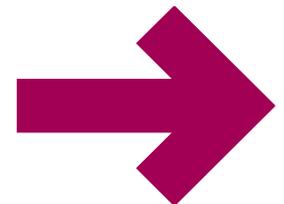


Pandemic flu guidance documents

The published national guidance on pandemic influenza provides advice and support to NHS organisations in the UK.

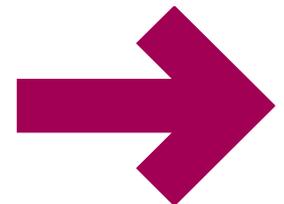
Throughout ongoing work to update and re-publish some guidance, the documents remain valid regarding the information and advice provided on roles and responsibilities during an influenza pandemic.

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



International and UK Government

- In June 2013 the World Health Organization (WHO) published revised pandemic influenza guidance which sets out the global preparation and response arrangements (www.who.int/influenza/preparedness/pandemic/GIP_PandemicInfluenzaRiskManagementInterimGuidance_Jun2013.pdf).
- 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).



Department of Health (DH)

- 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)
- The *Health and Social Care Influenza Pandemic Preparedness and Response* (2012) focuses on the operational response of the NHS to pandemic influenza (www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-and-social-care-response-to-flu-pandemics)
- 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:
 - www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/344695/PI_Response_Plan_13_Aug.pdf
 - www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/344696/PI_Strategic_Framework_13_Aug.pdf



NHS England

- The *NHS England Operating Framework for Managing the Response to Pandemic Influenza* was published in October 2013 (www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/framework-pandemic-flu.pdf).
- 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

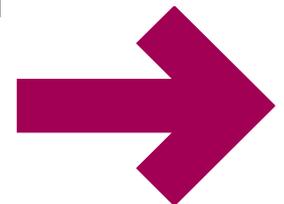
- **Human Resources:** NHS Employers have drafted HR guidance for use in an influenza pandemic.
- **Business Continuity:** internal business continuity guidance specific to pandemic influenza has been drafted for NHS England.
- **Pandemic influenza preparedness stockpile:** work is continuing with PHE 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/eprp/

