

# swine flu update



Issue 43

2pm, December 4 2009

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## Current situation

### General **updated**

New cases of swine flu halved in England this week but the chief medical officer Sir Liam Donaldson says it is too early to say if the second wave is on the wane.

There were 22,000 infections over the past seven days compared to 46,000.

Sir Liam called this a striking reduction but said that it was too early to know for sure whether the downward trend would continue.

The Health Protection Agency has produced a report on its response to the first wave of pandemic H1N1 2009 in England, summarising key findings about the pandemic and assessing the implications for the second wave (updated 2 December 2009). Click [here](#)

NHS Devon's provider services has dates for staff vaccination clinics. Details on Infopoint, NHS Devon's intranet, under 'Focus on flu'.

Patient group direction for provider services is on Infopoint, under 'swine flu response'.

Click [here](#) for latest Department of Health (DH) information, including vaccination programme, advice for pregnant women and patient leaflets.

A wide range of information for healthcare professionals is also available from the Health Protection Agency [here](#)

**All stakeholders, including GPs, please note - if approached by the media about swine flu or vaccinations, contact NHS Devon's communications team on 01392 267648 and 07969 152217 (out of hours).**

# Primary care information

## General

People needing advice or treatment are advised to contact the National Pandemic Flu Service: 0800 1 513 100 or [www.direct.gov.uk/pandemicflu](http://www.direct.gov.uk/pandemicflu)  
Swine flu information videos are on YouTube. NHS Devon has information [here](#) and NHS South West has vaccination programme information [here](#).

GPs should continue to provide diagnosis for those people in high risk groups and if they feel it is clinically appropriate to swab for the virus, they can do so.

The following high-risk groups will be directed to GPs:

- People who have a serious underlying illness
- Pregnant women
- Sick children under the age of one
- People whose condition suddenly gets worse
- People whose condition worsens after seven days (five days for child).

## Guidance for GPs on vouchers and antivirals

New DH guidance on antiviral and prophylaxis, vouchers and FP10SS is [here](#).

New dosage rates for treatment are:

- **Newborn and up to one month of age:** 2mg per kilo body weight given twice a day for five days.
- **Over one month and up to three months:** 2.5mg per kilo body weight given twice a day for five days.
- **Over three months and under six months:** 3mg per kilo body weight given twice a day for five days. This is now the same dose as for those aged over six months and under one year of age.

**New vouchers will be issued by DH and sent direct to practices and out of hours providers by December 14 2009. The new vouchers are:**

**For patients aged up to three months:** Use purple voucher AVBU3 1109

**For patients three months to one year:** Use pink voucher AVBO3 1109.

## Action to be taken on arrival of the new vouchers:

1. The new vouchers are to be used as soon as received by practices. It is accepted there will be a transitional period before all practices receive vouchers and Antiviral Collection Points will process either version if issued for treatment doses until all practices have the new vouchers.

2. Existing stocks of vouchers AVBU6 0809 (Green) and AVBO6 0809 (Red) must be securely destroyed by practices after receipt of the new vouchers.
3. Practices are also advised to destroy previous versions of the guidance. This is because the new version attached to this update is outwardly identical to the previous version and to avoid confusion over dosage rates, etc.

GPs should note current voucher AVA 0809 (Orange) for patients aged one year and older is not affected and should continue to be used.

To order additional vouchers see chapter four in the new guidance.

Prior to receiving new vouchers, GPs should follow previous advice.

**For patients aged under 6 months:** Use green voucher AVBU6 and circle the required dose for **both** preparations.

**For patients aged 6 months to one year:** Use red voucher AVBO6.

**For patients aged 1 year to 12 years:** Use orange voucher AVA.

**For patients aged 13 years and over:** FP10SS forms should be used to authorise antiviral medicines, unless unable to use the GP computer system, when orange AVA voucher should be used. Use the right-hand white section endorsed with the letters 'ACP' and void the left-hand green section.

Fax the prescription form or voucher to the antiviral collection point (ACP) and phone to check it has been received (numbers below). If using the prescription form, ensure dosage instructions are included. Ensure the patient is given the signed original copy of the prescription or voucher for their flu friend.

If you have remotely assessed a patient you should fax (phone if no fax) the form and post the original to the ACP.

If you have a face to face consultation with the patient, then once they have the form, they should be asked if they have a flu friend. On no account should the patient collect the antiviral medicine themselves.

Antivirals will only be given to flu friends if they are able to produce a form of ID, such as their passport, driving licence or utility bill. ID is also required for the patient. If you fax a form outside of opening hours, you must tell the patient the opening hours of the collection point. You should also remind them ID is needed by their flu friend and the opening hours of their nearest ACP. FP10s should still be used for prophylaxis.

GPs please note: Staff at ACPs are not able to give advice on treatment dosage. Please refer to DH guidance previously given.

### **Antivirals for children**

The latest information from NHS Devon prescribing team is [here](#).

## Antiviral collection points updated

Please note that antiviral collection points will not issue prophylaxis doses.

Do not direct patients to the Exeter walk-in centres, GP surgeries or emergency departments – unless it is clinically appropriate to do so.

Antiviral collection point	Daily hours	Telephone:	Fax:
Honiton Hospital	8am-6pm	01404 540 540	01404 540 550
Whipton Hospital	12pm-5pm	01392 208 794	01392 208 366
Exmouth Hospital	8am-6pm	01395 279 684	01395 224 270
Tiverton Hospital	24 hours	01884 235 400	01884 235 532
Newton Abbot Hospital	8am-6pm	01626 324 500	01626 324 701
Totnes Hospital	8am-6pm	01803 862 622	01803 869 486
Tavistock Hospital	8am-6pm	01822 612 233	01822 610 025
Bideford Hospital	8am-6pm	01237 420 200	01237 478 036
Ilfracombe Tyrrell Hospital	8am-6pm	01271 863 448	01271 864 871
Lynton Resource Centre	8am-6pm (weekdays only)	01598 753 310	01598 753 832
Barnstaple Health Centre	10am-5pm (weekdays only)	01271 371 761	01271 321 586

## Prophylaxis doses

GPs prescribing prophylaxis should direct patients to community pharmacies below, but NOTE no antiviral treatment doses are available from pharmacies.

Location	Pharmacy	Daily hours	Telephone:	Fax:
Honiton	Lloyds, Marlpitts Rd	8.30am-6.30pm (weekdays only)	01404 427 62	01404 427 62
Exeter	Sainsbury, Hill Barton Rd	7am-11pm, Sun 10am-4pm	01392 469 687	01392 469 687
Exmouth	Clarepharm, Claremont Gr	8.30am-6pm (weekdays only)	01395 222 878	01395 222 878
Tiverton	Lloyds, Tiverton Hospital	9am-6.30pm (weekdays only)	01884 254 102	01884 254 102
Newton Abbot	Boots, Albany St	8.45am-6.30pm, Sat 8.45am-1pm	01626 363 195	01626 363 195
Totnes	Boots, Babbage Rd,	8.30am-6.30pm, Sat 8.30am-12.30	01803 862 356	01803 865 113
Tavistock	Lake, West St	9am-5.30pm (Mon-Sat)	01822 612 104	01822 618 648
Bideford	Lloyds, Abbotsham Rd	8.30am-6.30pm, Sat 9am-12noon	01237 472 002	01237 472 002
Ilfracombe	Lloyds, St Brannock's Rd	9am-6.30pm (weekdays only)	01271 867 524	01271 855 594
Lynton	Lynton Pharmacy	8.30am-6.30pm, Sat 8am-11am	01598 753 377	01598 753 377
Barnstaple	Boots, High St	8.30am-6pm, Sun 10am-4pm	01271 326 772	01271 326 773

DH has produced training manuals on the Stock Management System for managing the distribution of antivirals to PCTs and collection points [here](#).

## Help for people with no flu friend

NHS Devon has agreement with the British Red Cross. Call 0844 412 2840.

## **Decision to admit or send to A&E**

DH has issued detailed guidance on hospital admission criteria for adults and children, along with a referral form. This is available [here](#).

## **Vaccination programme**

DH has latest information on vaccines and vaccination programme [here](#).

Advice on vaccination delivery and ordering patient leaflets is [here](#).

A vaccination training video has been produced by DH [here](#).

To order additional vaccine use the attached form and send to [tracy.fabiano@nhs.net](mailto:tracy.fabiano@nhs.net). Use the same email address to order consumables, but allow five working days for delivery. If surgeries require consumables quicker, they can collect from Totnes Hospital after agreement with Tracy.

Please see attached ImmForm user guide (page 36) for HPA data monthly swine flu vaccination return. A weekly upload will be done automatically for practices which do not do manual submissions.

## **Priority groups**

There are five groups eligible for the swine flu vaccine. These groups are:

- Group 1 - six months old to 65 years in seasonal flu risk group
- Group 2 - pregnant women
- Group 3 - household contacts of immunosuppressed individuals
- Group 4 - over 65s in seasonal flu risk group
- Group 5 - children aged between six months and five years

## **Number and timing of doses**

The number of doses varies between one or two depending on the patient group and type of vaccine. You must refer to [here](#) for correct dosage.

## **PCT staff information**

### **Human Resources – absence reporting**

Managers are requested to report to the HR team if they have staff reporting sick because of swine flu or if they have staff who have to take special leave to look after a child or other dependent who is ill with swine flu. Please also remember to report when the person returns to work. Please email [hr.nhsdevon@nhs.net](mailto:hr.nhsdevon@nhs.net) or telephone the HR Advice Line on 01392 356013.

# Communications

Press and media **updated**

**All stakeholders, including GPs, please note - if approached by the media about swine flu or vaccinations, contact NHS Devon's communications team on 01392 267648 and 07969 152217 (out of hours).**

New radio campaign urging people with long-term conditions and priority groups to take up the vaccine has begun on Heart FM. NHS Devon liaises with Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust and Northern Devon Healthcare Trust communications colleagues each Friday.

## Main messages for the public

**CATCH IT:** germs spread easily. Always carry tissues and use them to catch your cough or sneeze.

**BIN IT:** Germs can live for several hours on tissues. Dispose of them as soon as possible.

**KILL IT:** Hands can transfer germs to any surface you touch. Clean your hands as soon as you can.

Anyone experiencing flu-like symptoms should contact the National Pandemic Flu Service on 0800 1 513 100 or visit [www.direct.gov.uk/pandemicflu](http://www.direct.gov.uk/pandemicflu)

## Vaccinations

If you are in a high-risk group your GP will contact you to receive the vaccine.

## Main sources of information

General information is available on [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk). People in high-risk groups should call their GP. No one with symptoms should attend walk-in centres, NHS hospitals or GP practices in person, unless instructed to do so.

## Flu friends

People should consider setting up a network of flu friends. They can collect medicines, food and essentials, so the patient doesn't have to leave home.

## General advice and back issues

Please go to InfoPoint – NHS Devon's internal website. Contact [howard.chapman@nhs.net](mailto:howard.chapman@nhs.net) for access.

**Next update – December 11, 2009**