

SHEFFIELD LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE

NEWSFLASH

SWINE FLU

UPDATE FOR GPs

All practices should have recently received emailed updates from NHS Sheffield. The LMC has also received recent communications from the GPC. In summary:

- Best advice is that confirmed cases of swine flu are likely to continue over the summer months, with the possibility of a surge in the autumn flu season.
- It is vital that every suspected case of swine flu A/H1N1 is reported to the Yorkshire and Humber Swine Flu Call Centre on 0845 2700899 (Monday to Friday 8am to 6pm, Saturday and Sunday 10am to 4pm). The Call Centre will advise on swabbing and authorise the use of antivirals when appropriate. Please discuss any testing with the flu centre or with public health when the flu centre is closed.
- More detailed information and contact details can be found on the NHS Sheffield website via: <http://nww.sheffield.nhs.uk> or <http://www.sheffield.nhs.uk/swineflu>.
- Algorithms for the management of swine flu A/H1N1 are updated as new information becomes available. Please check regularly for updated advice and algorithms for the management of swine flu A/H1N1 on the Health Protection Agency (HPA) website - <http://www.hpa.org.uk> to ensure that you are following the most up to date guidance. Antivirals will only be authorised for those patients meeting the case definition who have been notified to the Yorkshire and Humber Swine Flu Call Centre.
- The South Yorkshire bulletin, with a Sheffield specific section, is posted on <http://nww.sheffield.nhs.uk/> every Friday.
- Pneumococcal vaccine reminder: Secondary bacterial infections of the respiratory tract are common following influenza. Now is a good time to check that all your eligible patients (whether 65 years or over, in clinical risk groups or infants as part of the routine childhood immunisation programme) are up to date with their pneumococcal vaccine. Please refer to the Department of Health (DH) Green Book for clinical risk groups, available via: http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publichealth/Healthprotection/Immunisation/Greenbook/DH_4097254
- Protective Personal Equipment (PPE): Supplies of masks, aprons, gloves and hand rub supplied by NHS Sheffield MUST ONLY be used where swine flu is suspected or confirmed - they should not be used for any other purposes. It is understood that the DH will supply masks and hand gel, however, all other PPE (aprons and gloves) are the responsibility of each organisation/practice.
- Information is also available on the BMA website at: http://www.bma.org.uk/health_promotion_ethics/influenza/index.jsp.
Of particular note is the recently published *Pandemic flu H1N1 - Questions and answers*, available via: http://www.bma.org.uk/health_promotion_ethics/influenza/panflugp/panfluqa.jsp