

Swine Flu Update – Wednesday 10th February 2010

Please read this important information – even if you are not directly involved in swine flu planning

This briefing contains the latest information about Swine Flu, which is underlined. Regular updates will continue, but remember that it is your responsibility to check the relevant online location for the very latest information:

- NHS Kirklees staff information, including HR guidance, can be found on the intranet at: <http://nww.kirklees.nhs.uk/swine-flu-information/>
- GP practice specific information can be accessed through GP Link at: <http://portal.kirklees.nhs.uk/home/gp-link/home/>
- Pharmacy specific information can be found through PharmaLink at: <http://portal.kirklees.nhs.uk/home/pharmacy-link/home/>

This briefing was accurate at the time of production. Please check the websites for the most up-to-date information.

National Pandemic Flu Service (NPFS) stand down – removal of materials

The special unit set up to ease pressure on GPs and check symptoms of patients – the NPFS – will be de-activated by the DH.

From 1am on Thursday 11 February the service, which includes a 24-hour health hotline for people who are suffering from the symptoms of Swine Flu, will be stood down.

If you have any posters, leaflets or other materials with the hotline number for the NPFS – 0800 1 513 513 – please ensure they are **removed** from public view and stored away safely by 11 February until further notice. The materials should not be discarded.

For more information about the NPFS, [click here](#).

Healthcare and social care workers Swine Flu vaccination uptake and new session

A message from Dr Judith Hooper, Director of Public Health for NHS Kirklees and Kirklees Council: “Thank you to all healthcare and social care workers who have taken up the offer to be immunized against Swine Flu. Your professionalism has meant NHS Kirklees has a vaccination uptake of over 53%, placing us 4th out of 36 Trusts in Yorkshire and the Humber.

“We continue to encourage healthcare and social care workers to be vaccinated against Swine Flu because they have an increased risk of catching the virus and passing it on to patients.

“If you have not been vaccinated against Swine Flu and work on the front-line with patients, please consider going to the next available vaccination session.”

The next vaccination session for health and social care workers is at **Cleckheaton Health Centre on Tuesday February 16 2010 between 4-5pm.**

An authorization form for Swine Flu vaccination **must** be filled in by staff prior to vaccination. Download the form [here](#)

The authorization forms are also available on the [Intranet](#), [GP Link](#) and [Pharmacy Link](#).

More sessions will be added shortly and will be communicated to all staff.

Swine Flu vaccination for children over 6 months and under 5 years

The Chief Medical Officer (CMO) has recommended individuals in the priority groups continue to receive the H1N1 vaccine in view of the risk of the virus returning later and this includes children over 6 months and under 5 years.

Children between these ages have a higher rate of admission to critical care and vaccination is strongly encouraged by the DH.

For further information, a letter from Professor David Salisbury, the DH's Director of Immunisation, is available to view and download on [GP Link](#). Sign in securely and navigate to: Swine Flu > Vaccine Information > Phase 2 - Children 6 months - under 5 years

CMO update

Key messages

- Swine flu cases remain near their lowest level since the early stages of the disease in the United Kingdom
- In England, the rate of GP consultations for influenza-like illness was 12.5 per 100,000 population for the week ending 31 January 2010
- The number of people receiving antiviral drugs through the National Pandemic Flu Service (NPFS) in the week ending 2 February 2010 was 4,730. This represents a fall from the figure of 6,337 for the week ending 18 January 2010 and is the lowest weekly number since the NPFS was activated.

- The total estimated number of front-line health and social care workers vaccinated to-date in England is 393,000.
- The total number of vaccine doses administered to the priority groups in England to-date is 4.25 million. This figure includes: 140,000 pregnant women and 404,000 healthy children aged 6 months to under 5 years
- The confirmed number of deaths from Swine Flu in England is 298.

The CMO update is available to read, in full, online. [Click here](#)

Antiviral Collection Points (ACPs)

The NHS Kirklees ACPs at Cambridge Road Nursery, Cambridge Road, Huddersfield and The Walsh Centre, Town Hall Way, Dewsbury are now permanently closed.

Flu Friends

GP practices should use the Volunteer Flu Friend Scheme for patients who are isolated. Full details on the process can be found on [GP Link](#). Any member of NHS Kirklees staff that receives an inquiry about this service should refer to PALS: 01484 446 172.

Vaccine consumables

For additional supplies of vaccine consumables contact Rob Harrison (rob.harrison@kirklees.nhs.uk or 07950 329871).

Reporting Swine Flu Related Incidents including misdiagnoses

The Swine Flu Incident Reporting form, Incident Reporting Process and Reporting Swine Flu Related Incidents form are all now available on GP Link. View the forms by signing in securely using this [link](#) and navigating to Swine Flu.

Swine Flu vaccine availability

There is further vaccine available in the system for practices to order by completing the proforma and emailing it to: maralyn.noble@kirklees.nhs.uk

The form can be found on GP Link, sign in and click on:

<http://portal.kirklees.nhs.uk/home/gp-link/swine-flu/vaccine-information/vaccine-resupply/>

Following the recommendation by the CMO for use of the vaccine in the letter dated 13th August; Practices should ensure the vaccine is also offered to individuals aged **over 65 years in the current seasonal flu vaccine clinical at risk groups**

Clinical enquiry line

Please remember that, **under no circumstances**, should the telephone number or email address for the NHS Kirklees clinical enquiry line be released to any member of the public as this is a dedicated resource **for your use only**. If this keeps happening then sadly we will have to withdraw this support as we simply do not have the capacity to deal with the public as well.

The Swine Flu clinical enquiry service can be accessed via email clinicalswinefluengs@kirklees.nhs.uk and we will endeavour to respond within one working day.

If your call is very urgent and requires an earlier response, please contact an advisor on 01924 512079. We would ask that this number is only used in emergencies to enable us to prioritise resources.

Please use this clinical enquiry line as your main point of contact for enquiries rather than directing them to a specific individual to avoid any delays in answering your questions.

Health Protection Agency (HPA)

The HPA has a dedicated section on it's website for Swine Flu. Check the latest information here:

<http://www.hpa.org.uk/web/HPAweb&Page&HPAwebAutoListName/Page/1240732817665>

Further graphs and maps are available from the seasonal influenza page:

http://www.hpa.org.uk/webw/HPAweb&HPAwebStandard/HPAweb_C/1201767912921?p=1191942171484

GP and Pharmacy Links

GP Link and Pharmacy Links are secure areas set up to give you access to clinically relevant information. As a result, registration cannot be completed on someone else's behalf. In order to maintain the security of the site and ensure that individuals' details are verified before access is granted, the individual must complete the registration process themselves.

If you have yet to confirm your registration, please check your inbox for the activation link.

If you are in a GP practice and still need to register, please use this [link](#).

If you are in a pharmacy and still need to register, please use this [link](#)

If you have any questions, please contact the NHS Kirklees Communications Team on 01484 466 223.