



This fortnightly report is produced by South Central Strategic Health Authority to keep key stakeholders informed about the NHS response to the A (H1N1) swine flu pandemic. Updates will be issued every two weeks and will contain the latest facts and figures on the spread of swine flu and its impact on NHS Services across the NHS South Central region.

This briefing has been sent to:

- MPs
- Regional Minister
- Local Authority Chief Executives
- Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chairs
- Directors of Social Services
- Professional bodies i.e. LMC, LDC etc
- Trade Unions representatives
- Thames Valley Police
- Hampshire Constabulary
- GOSE
- NHS Chief Executives



1. Latest information

All our indicators suggest that the second wave of pandemic influenza is over and that levels of influenza like illness are low for this time of year. Primary care is working well offering vaccination to priority groups and NHS South Central is managing the significant service pressures that are being experienced at the moment.

I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the response to the pandemic. It certainly has not been easy, but everyone has worked professionally together to ensure the best levels of care were delivered to those that needed it. Having said that, we must learn as much as we can from these waves of pandemic flu and I would be very grateful if you would send to fluresponse@southcentral.nhs.uk your thoughts of what we should consider when revising our pandemic influenza and major incident plans.

In light of the epidemiology of the disease, this will be the last stakeholder briefing relating to swine flu.

Thank you very much for your support.

Professor John Newton
Regional Director of Public Health and NHS South Central Flu Director



2. Numbers of GP consultations for flu-like illness

Please be aware that the NHS has moved to treatment and clinical diagnosis of swine flu. As suspected cases are no longer swabbed these figures give an incomplete picture of the actual number of people affected.

This data is from Nottingham University National Surveillance System and shows the number of GP consultations per 100,000 of the population for influenza-like illness. Full details can be found at: http://www.hpa.org.uk/hpr/infections/Qresearch_appendixA.pdf

Only practices with data for the entire week have been included in the analysis for the week commencing 20 January 2010, and PCTs where there are less than three practices reporting are excluded from the table to ensure confidentiality of participating practices.

PCT	No. of GP consultations per 100,000 of the population for flu-like illness, not just Swine Flu, for the week commencing 20 January 2010 (previous week's figures in italics)
Berkshire East	14 (14.1)
Berkshire West	23 (14.8)
Buckinghamshire	16 (16.3)
Hampshire	44 (27)
Isle of Wight	-
Milton Keynes	22.6 (27.1)
Oxfordshire	11.9 (10.1)
Portsmouth City	2 (12.7)
Southampton City	3.3 (11.3)

3. Number of hospital admissions in the NHS South Central region

As at 18 January there were five cases of people with suspected swine flu being treated as in-patients in hospitals in the NHS South Central region. No hospitals have reported serious operational problems as a result of the pandemic and normal service continues to be provided.

4. Number of deaths

For the purpose of this briefing a swine flu related death is one in which swine flu is either the primary cause, a contributory factor or a person has died and there is a positive test for swine flu. In the NHS South Central region the number of confirmed swine flu related deaths currently stands at five. A number of other deaths believed to be swine flu related are currently being investigated to confirm whether or not this is the case.

5. Anti-viral Collection Points (ACPs)

The total number of ACPs open over the past week across the NHS South Central region is 173.

Specific locations are chosen by PCTs according to the level of demand and according to need. ACPs are the venues where a patient's flu friend can collect anti-viral medication on their behalf. The number of ACPs in each area may vary over a period of time to cope with demand.

ACPs are not treatment or assessment centres. Members of the public who have not gone through the National Pandemic Flu Service, and therefore do not have a unique reference number, should not visit the ACPs.



PCT area	Number of ACPs open as at 18/01/2010	Number of anti-virals collected over the past week up to 18/01/2010
Berkshire East	4	39
Berkshire West	24	68
Buckinghamshire	19	50
Hampshire	66	159
Isle of Wight	16	9
Milton Keynes	8	62
Oxfordshire	12	69
Portsmouth City	9	31
Southampton City	15	47

6. The impact on local areas

Oxfordshire

NHS Oxfordshire continues to use ten pharmacies as anti-viral collection points. The number of people in Oxfordshire collecting anti-virals has reduced to low levels.

All GP practices have signed the Local Enhanced Service agreement, with the exception of one practice, to offer the vaccine to children six months to five years of age. Not all practices will offer the vaccine but everyone eligible will be able to get it from a nearby practice.

The PCT's local communications campaign is underway. Information is being shared with early year settings, GP practices, health visitors and other key groups. Information is also on the PCT's website and will be included on the PCT's Twitter and Facebook page.

Berkshire West

There has been a downward trend in the numbers of swine flu cases. All GP practices have signed up to a Local Enhanced Service to offer vaccination to children from six months to five years of age. Letters are already being sent to parents.

Berkshire East

The number of people collecting anti-virals in east Berkshire continues to fall. All GP practices have begun vaccinating under-fives. About 25,000 leaflets have been sent out to nurseries, health clinics and other places where parents go with their pre-school children to raise awareness of the vaccine and its benefits. This campaign has been supported by work with the local media. More than 1,000 frontline NHS staff in east Berkshire have also now received the vaccine.



Buckinghamshire

All 18 pharmacies being used as anti-viral collection points are continuing to provide anti-virals. Following a slight peak after Christmas, the number of people collecting anti-virals has dropped over the past week.

NHS Buckinghamshire has developed a comprehensive communications campaign, which is now being implemented, to promote the uptake of the swine flu vaccine for young children. Leaflets and posters have been sent to GP surgeries, play groups, nurseries, children centres and schools. There is also a local media campaign, which links with the national campaign.

Milton Keynes

The number of people collecting anti-viral medication in Milton Keynes is now minimal, at less than 10 people a day. The PCT continues to closely monitor the situation.

Of the 28 GP practices in Milton Keynes, 25 have signed up to the Local Enhanced Service to provide the swine flu vaccination to children over six months and under five years of age. Patients at the non-participating practices will be able to attend the new GP-led health centre at Broughton Gate to receive their vaccination. Parents will begin to receive invitation letters this week; the programme will also be publicised in the local media.

Hampshire

The number of swine flu cases across Hampshire remains low and there continues to be no sharp rise in cases following the Christmas and New Year period. The demand for anti-virals remains low with the medicines management team having decreasing numbers each week.

Phase one of the vaccination programme is well underway with most GPs sending out reminders to all priority group patients that have not yet responded to the first invitation. Practices have also started phase two of the programme and all GP practices have signed up to the Local Enhanced Service for the vaccination of all children between six months and five years of age. All practices are in the process of contacting the relevant patients (their parents and carers) to invite them for the vaccine and encourage uptake through arranged clinics.

The vaccination programme for frontline healthcare and social care workers also continues with good uptake across the acute Trusts.

Anti-viral collection points are still active across Hampshire through local pharmacies, although all are experiencing low demand and this will be monitored.

Southampton City

In response to a further decline in swine flu activity across the city, NHS Southampton City is currently reviewing the list of anti-viral collection points with a view to de-commissioning those that have not dispensed or dispensed little within the last four to six weeks. NHS Southampton City will continue to monitor demands across the services, as the focus moves from swine flu activity to seasonal pressures.

Southampton University Hospitals NHS Trust continues to experience high demand of its services, although in-patient pressures have not been directly related to swine flu cases. GP practices in the



City are currently in the process of writing to parents to offer the vaccination for children aged 6 months to five years of age.

Portsmouth City

Phase two of the swine flu vaccination programme is well underway and GP practices have begun to invite children between six months and five years of age for their vaccination.

The vaccination programmes for all five city special schools has been completed.

Portsmouth is mirroring the national picture, with overall numbers of cases reducing. Assessments for swine flu have reached as many as 35 per day and as low as under 5 over the January period to date.

Isle of Wight

The number of swine flu cases and the demand for anti-virals remains low - seven doses of anti-virals have been issued on the Island in the last seven days. The impact of flu like illness on all agencies remains minimal. Vaccination of children between six months and five years of age is taking place in GP practices and community pharmacies.

7. Health information and advice

Anyone who experiences a sudden fever over 38°C, with cough or shortness of breath or has a headache, sore throat, tiredness, aching muscles, chills, sneezing, runny nose and loss of appetite may have flu or swine flu. For most people this is a mild illness and they should start to feel better after a few days without needing to go to the GP or the Emergency Department.

We are asking people with flu-like symptoms to help themselves and others by maintaining good hand hygiene and trying not to spread the virus. The best advice is to stay at home, rest, drink plenty of fluids and take over-the-counter flu remedies to help relieve the symptoms. If people are concerned and want advice they should contact the National Pandemic Flu service on 0800 1 513 100 or www.direct.gov.uk/pandemicflu

It is particularly important that you talk to your doctor if you think you have swine flu and are pregnant, or care for a child under five, if you are over 65, or have a long-term condition such as heart or lung disease. Please contact the National Pandemic Flu Service for more information about those most at risk. To try and minimise the spread of the illness we are asking people not to visit their GP or Emergency Department unless they are seriously unwell.

8. Useful weblinks

- Department of Health information and guidance www.dh.gov.uk/en/PublicHealth/Flu/Swineflu/index.htm
- Health Protection Agency www.hpa.org.uk
- World Health Organisation www.who.int/en



9. Further information

If you have any queries at a local level contact your local PCT. For the contact details of PCTs click [here](#)

If you have a query about the regional response contact South Central Strategic Health Authority on 01635 275500 or email fluresponse@southcentral.nhs.uk