

**ITEM: 09/145**  
**Doc: 08**

**Meeting:** Trust Board  
**Date:** 18 November 2009

**Title:** **Pandemic influenza planning**

**Executive Summary:** This paper summarises the current stage of work in implementing the trust's pandemic flu plan. There is currently no major disruption to activity within the trust from the numbers of patients attending the hospital.

The trust's winter and flu resilience plans have now been rated as green by NHS London. A "table top" planning day has been run for 30 managers across the trust, to enable them to review their continuity plans through a number of scenarios as a pandemic progresses. NHS London has published additional guidance and introduced further reporting arrangements for trusts to monitor the impact on organisations; this has been circulated to all key managers.

The staff vaccination programme has commenced; there has been good uptake of the vaccine amongst all priority groups of staff.

**Action:** To note the current situation

**Report from:** Deborah Wheeler, Director of Nursing & Clinical Development/ Lead Director for Flu Resilience

**Sponsor:** Rob Larkman, Chief Executive

<b>Compliance with statute, directions, policy, guidance</b> Lead: All directors	<b>Reference:</b> DH pandemic flu guidance
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<b>Compliance with Care Quality Commission Core Standards</b> Lead: Director of Nursing & Clinical Development	<b>Reference:</b> C24
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## **Current situation**

Levels of activity have risen slightly in recent weeks, but have not yet returned to the levels seen in July. Daily reports are sent to the SHA on the level of activity in the hospital, which is not causing major disruption to services at present.

## **Winter and flu resilience preparedness**

Board members will recall that every NHS organisation was required to stress test their pandemic flu plans, and provide assurance and evidence of the robustness of their planning to the SHA by 1 September 2009. The Whittington's initial submission was rated as amber; following submission of additional evidence to NHS London, that Whittington's preparedness plan is now rated as green. To date, 37 trusts in London are rated as green, with the majority of plans being rated amber.

## **Pandemic flu plans**

The trust's pandemic flu plan has been activated and stress-tested for the expected autumn surge in cases. Additional work has been undertaken to produce capacity plans for paediatrics and maternity, which were not a priority in the original avian pandemic flu planning, as the majority of cases were anticipated to be in older people.

The swine flu co-ordinating committee continues to meet weekly or fortnightly, chaired by the director of nursing & clinical development, to ensure that key leads are up to date with the current situation and that there is no duplication of activity or effort across the trust. The trust currently has good levels of supply of antiviral drugs and personal protective equipment (PPE).

Key work undertaken in the last two months has included a table-top exercise day, with 30 managers across the hospital. This used planning scenarios to work through the stages of an expected 16 week pandemic, and allowed managers time to look at all their continuity plans in the light of developments in the scenarios.

Additional guidance has recently been received from NHS London, covering the following aspects:

- daily reporting on the amount of flu-related activity in ED will commence from 16 November, in addition to the existing daily reporting on flu-related activity across the hospital and in critical care
- NHS London will begin producing a daily dashboard showing winter and flu pressures from 16 November
- Guidance on the NHS London command and control arrangements for the management of the second wave of the pandemic
- A critical care resilience checklist, for return by 18 November, covering a review of the trust's plans to increase critical care capacity
- London Ambulance Service capacity management plan
- Revised NHS London emergency department capacity management and closure policy

## **Vaccinations**

The staff vaccination programme began in early November. Drop in clinics, run by matrons, senior nurses and health and work centre, ran daily for two weeks, with a number of additional sessions planned for the next two weeks. Staff uptake of the

vaccine has been very good, especially amongst the priority groups; numbers of staff vaccinated will be available at the board meeting.

### **Local flu planning**

The trust is represented at flu planning meetings in both Islington and Haringey, although this adds a further pressure to the limited management capacity available. Staff also take part in the NHS London teleconferences for acute trusts.

### **Conclusion**

The planning work for the second wave of the pandemic continues. Plans are in place across the trust and have been tested through a table top exercise. There has been good uptake of the staff vaccination programme.