

Statement regarding developments for H1N1 Swine Flu Resilience in Buckinghamshire

'If you fail to plan then you plan to fail'

There is a possibility that we could start to see a surge of H1N1 Swine Flu cases through the coming months.

Jill Timms, Clinical Lead for MKB Care Association has been working on behalf of care homes in Buckinghamshire, with the PCT/Local Authority and NHS Emergency Planners on the subject of Flu Resilience and Preparedness. A Flu Resilience Action Plan and relevant letters for staff and relatives, plus notices for homes, is already available on the MKB Care Association website on the document library page.

The following items have been clarified:

- Social Care frontline workers will be offered a Flu Vaccination. It has yet to be decided how this will be administered and co-ordinated. It is strongly advised that Care Home staff who administer Personal Care take up this offer, to protect themselves and the Residents we care for. You will be informed of what to do when it becomes clear.
- If residents in your home require anti-viral medications, this will be through the National Pandemic Flu Line. It is recommended that a relative, if there is one available, acts as the 'flu friend'. They will need to contact the Flu line themselves having the following information to hand: name, address, date of birth and medical history. They need to take with them ID for themselves and for the resident who is ill – the resident's ID should show something that proves they are living at a Care Home and should include the NHS card if available. It is advised that you plan for this now.
- There will be a facility to order three months' worth of Repeat Prescriptions from your GP, which will then be stored at the local pharmacy that supplies your home's medications. You are advised to speak to the GP who covers your residents *now* to request this facility.
- Some of you may already have received a supply of free face masks through your Local Authority. If you have not had them, there may be more on their way. You will be informed.
- A Flucon reporting template form has been devised, which a care home Manager will be able to use, to alert the Local Authority of their service pressures should they have a surge of flu cases in either staff or residents. Homes also need to alert the Health Protection Agency of an outbreak. An outbreak is defined as 'two or more cases of influenza-like illness arising within the same 48-hour period in residents or staff'. You will be informed of this as soon as it has been decided who will administer the form and collate the details.
- You are advised to have a larger than normal supply of homely remedies in stock.

As other items are clarified, details will be posted on the MKB Care website or included in the MKB Care bi-weekly newsletter.

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