

Localised protocol for outbreaks of influenza in Care Homes – Hull and the East Riding of Yorkshire (for in season and out of season)

- A. Resident is unwell and assessed and managed by own GP or OOH GP if outside of normal core hours.
- B. If two or more residents or staff with flu-like symptoms and a temperature over 37.8C are seen in the care home and identified as (Influenza Like Illness) ILI this triggers the outbreak protocol.

1. Guidance available from PHE through care homes poster below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-outbreaks-of-influenza-in-care-homes-poster>

2. PHE's guidance on Flu outbreaks in care homes can be found below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/acute-respiratory-disease-managing-outbreaks-in-care-homes>

- C. Care Home contacts the local Public Health England (PHE) Yorkshire and the Humber Health Protection Team (HPT) (telephone: 01904 687100 – in hours and 0114 304 9843 – out of hours) to report 2 or more cases of ILI.
- D. PHE Centre HPT investigates this report to verify if this meets the criteria of an outbreak of influenza-like illness (ILI), as per national guidance. Duty Consultant in PHE Centre HPT considers the risk assessment for the verified ILI outbreak and makes recommendation as to whether antivirals are required for the outbreak response. If this is recommended, the PHE Centre HPT will determine if this needs to be considered for either the whole care home or only part of the care home, in addition to any staff in influenza at-risk groups. The care home to collate a list of those exposed/affected (as the PHE Centre HPT does not provide the list of exposed persons itself).
- E. Care home to be reminded of 'Catch it, Kill it, Bin it' campaign.
- F. PHE Centre HPT uses its routine mechanisms to provide infection control advice. In addition, existing local arrangements for swabbing of symptomatic persons (if not already addressed) must be followed. The HPT sends swabs by post to the care home (where indicated), and the care home will be advised to post the swab samples to the laboratory in pre-paid envelopes.

In Season Influenza outbreak

Once an outbreak is confirmed:

- PHE Centre HPT informs the care home directly of their findings.

- Patient's GP is responsible for assessing and treating symptomatic patients in core hours
- Care home contacts patient's GP in hours or the OOH service (CHCP) if outside core hours as necessary for the treatment of all symptomatic patients.
- CHCP prescriber is responsible for assessing patient's needs for treatment (outside of core hours) and/or prophylaxis at any time
- PHE Centre HPT contacts City Health Care Partnership CIC (CHCP) (01482 247111) to make them aware of the location of the outbreak, provide contact details for the care home and provide the approximate number of individuals that need to be assessed for prophylactic antivirals within the outbreak.
- Supply of antivirals by CHCP prescriber should normally be through an FP10 (endorse SLS) remembering that antivirals are not always routinely stocked by community pharmacies and may need to be ordered in once an FP10 is received.
- If antiviral medication is needed approaching a weekend, CHCP contacts PHE (telephone: 01904 687100 – in hours and 0114 304 9843 – out of hours) requesting access to PHE stock (held for avian influenza incidents by Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust (HUTH)).
- PHE Centre HPT duty consultant contacts HUTH Pharmacy Dept.

In Hours:

Paul O'Brien (01482 623275)
Grace Gough (01482 674520) OR
Simon Gaines (01482 674902)

Out of Hours:

On call pharmacist – via switchboard (01482 875875)

- PHE Centre HPT duty consultant liaises with HUTH pharmacy and authorises use of PHE antiviral stock for emergency management of an outbreak
- PHE Centre HPT duty consultant provides contact details of responsible person at HUTH who will be dealing with requests to CHCP
- CHCP prescriber writes Patient Specific Direction(s) (PSD) to send to HUTH for urgently required medication
- CHCP scans and e-mails PSD directly to the responsible person at name.name@HUTH.nhs.uk and forwards original document within 72 hours.
- HUTH dispenses medication and delivers patient labelled stock to the care home by taxi.
- HUTH replenishes the PHE stock and invoices costs for replacement medication to the CCG.
- If any exposed person develops ILI symptoms while on antiviral prophylaxis, tHUTH are referred to their own GP in hours or the OOH service (CHCP) if outside core hours.
- PHE Centre HPT follows its existing procedures for reporting, follow-up and closure of the localised outbreak.

Out of Season Influenza outbreak

- PHE Centre HPT informs the care home directly of their findings.
- PHE Centre HPT contacts CHCP (01482 247111) to make them aware of the location of the outbreak, provide contact details for the care home and approximate number of individuals requiring assessment both for treatment and prophylaxis.
- PHE Centre HPT duty consultant contacts HUTH Pharmacy Dept.

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Simon Gaines (01482 674902)

Out of Hours:

On call pharmacist – via switchboard (01482 875875)

- PHE Centre HPT duty consultant authorises use of PHE antiviral stock for emergency management of the outbreak and liaises with HUTH pharmacy to agree release.
- CHCP prescriber attends care home and assess patient's needs for treatment or prophylaxis.
- CHCP prescriber writes Patient Specific Direction(s) (PSD) to send to HUTH for medication
- CHCP scans and e-mails PSD directly to the responsible person at HUTH name.name@HUTH.nhs.uk and forwards original document within 72 hours.
- HUTH dispenses medication and delivers patient labelled stock to the care home by taxi.
- HUTH replenishes the PHE stock and invoices costs for replacement medication to the CCG.
- PHE Centre HPT follows its existing procedures for reporting, follow-up and closure of the localised outbreak.