

# INFLUENZA PANDEMIC PREPARATIONS

October 2008

# Influenza Pandemic Preparations

- Pandemic is the term used for a global disease outbreak
- Pandemic flu occurs when a new influenza virus emerges
- Pandemic flu occurs rarely – 3 pandemics in last century 1918, 1957 and 1968
- Pandemic flu occurs when 3 conditions have been met:
  - New influenza virus subtype emerges
  - Infects humans, causing serious illness
  - Spreads easily and sustainably among humans
- The current H5N1 virus ‘ Bird Flu ‘ meets the first two conditions
- Pandemic flu is more serious than seasonal flu because of no immunity in the population

# Pandemic Alert Phases

- **The World Health Organisation (WHO) has identified 6 phases of a pandemic:**
- Phase 1 – Low risk of human cases
- Phase 2 – High risk of human cases
- Phase 3 – No, or very limited human to human transmission
- Phase 4 – Evidence of increased human to human transmission
- Phase 5 – Evidence of significant human to human transmission
- Phase 6 – Efficient and sustained human to human transmission
- Currently we are at Phase 3.

# Pandemic Alert Phases

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- When the WHO declares phase 6 – there are 4 alert levels in the UK:
- UK Alert Level 1 – No cases in the UK
- UK Alert Level 2 – Pandemic Flu virus isolated in the UK
- UK Alert Level 3 – Outbreak (s) in the UK
- UK Alert Level 4 – Widespread activity across the UK

Upon Notification of UK Alert Level 2, The NHS moves to 'Pandemic Standby'.

# Pandemic Flu Planning

- **Civil Contingencies Act (CCA) 2004**
- **NHS Emergency Planning Guidance 2005**
- PCT's / Acute Trust classed as category 1 responders under CCA
- Legal requirement for these organisations to have Emergency Plans including Pandemic Flu
- DoH Published 'Pandemic Flu: A National Framework for responding to an Influenza Pandemic November 2007'
- Specific sections for PCT's and Acute Trusts

# Pandemic Flu Planning – PCT's

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- PCT's have the responsibility for co-ordinating the local health response to a pandemic.
- PCT chairs Bolton Multi-Agency Health Group including Police, Acute Trust, Bolton Council, Health Protection Agency etc

# Pandemic Flu Planning

- PCT's have responsibility for:
  - Supporting Self Care amongst patients / public – communication – national / local.
  - Ensuring Access to medicines including anti-virals / vaccine / anti-biotics.
  - Business Continuity Arrangements – Prioritising services / staff skills audit.
    - Eg GPs – IQ Plan / District Nurses / Dentists
  - Promoting Public Health – Infection Control measures
  - Demand surge c/f Acute Trust/Bolton Council Social Services/Nursing-Residential Homes/Intermediate Care
  - Mutual Aid – Neighbouring PCT's/Local Health Economy
  - Human Resources – Staffing levels
  - Occupational Health – return to work programme