

swine flu update



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National Pandemic Flu Service ends February 10

The National Pandemic Flu Service is to be stood down from midnight on February 10, as pressures on the NHS from swine flu and flu-like illnesses have eased to well below the levels at which the national service was started.

This means there will no longer be a nationwide service for telephone assessment, online assessment or the issuing of antivirals. Assessment will revert to GPs.

In Devon, only 10 to 12 antivirals are being issued each day, and from February 11 the number of Antiviral Collection Points (ACPs) will be reduced. (see table below).

We are asking GPs to continue authorising antivirals using the current systems, either through the existing vouchers or using the right hand side of FP10s as appropriate.

This will continue to 31 March 2010, after which we expect the national antiviral policy to revert to normal, with NICE guidelines applying from 1 April 2010.

In view of the national service being stood down, we would ask that posters and leaflets advertising the National Pandemic Flu Service are removed.

The existing swine flu assessment clinical algorithm, document AC01, is attached.

The national pandemic flu information line will have a recorded message referring callers to their GP or NHS Direct.

Antiviral collection points

From 11 February 2010 the number of antiviral collection points will be reduced from 11 to six.

Antiviral collection point	Daily hours	Telephone:	Fax:
Whipton Hospital	2pm-4pm	01392 208 794	01392 208 366
Tiverton Hospital	24 hours	01884 235 400	01884 235 532
Newton Abbot Hospital	4pm-6pm	01626 324 500	01626 324 701
Tavistock Hospital	4pm-6pm	01822 612 233	01822 610 025
Bideford Hospital	8am-6pm	01237 420 200	01237 478 036
Ilfracombe Tyrrell Hospital	8am-6pm	01271 863 448	01271 864 871

After the National Pandemic Flu Service is shut to the public on 10 February, antiviral collection points will have access to the collection point system (CPS) for a further seven days. After that, authorisation numbers (unique reference numbers) should no longer be accepted.

Please note there will be no changes to the stock management system at collection points and the requirement to update the PCT systems for all issues remains. .

Antiviral collection points should continue to provide information on alternative points, eg if they have run out of a dose of AV or if there is a nearer collection point. The services provided by the British Red Cross will also continue until the antiviral collection points are closed.

Vaccination programme

NHS Devon is still encouraging those with children over six months and under five years to have their children vaccinated. As the H1N1 virus at present accounts for more than 80 percent of influenza cases globally, we are working on the assumption that it may well be the dominant flu in the next flu season. On those grounds, we are continuing to encourage frontline staff and people in the higher risk groups to take up the vaccination.

Prophylaxis doses

There is no change to the prophylaxis prescribing system.

GPs prescribing prophylaxis should direct patients to community pharmacies below, but NOTE no antiviral treatment doses are available from pharmacies.

Location	Pharmacy	Daily hours	Telephone:	Fax:
Honiton	Lloyds, Marlpitts Rd	8.30am-6.30pm (weekdays only)	01404 427 62	01404 427 62
Exeter	Sainsbury, Hill Barton Rd	7am-11pm, Sun 10am-4pm	01392 469 687	01392 469 687
Exmouth	Clarepharm, Claremont Gr	8.30am-6pm (weekdays only)	01395 222 878	01395 222 878
Tiverton	Lloyds, Tiverton Hospital	9am-6.30pm (weekdays only)	01884 254 102	01884 254 102
Newton Abbot	Boots, Albany St	8.45am-6.30pm, Sat 8.45am-1pm	01626 363 195	01626 363 195
Totnes	Boots, Babbage Rd	8.30am-6.30pm, Sat 8.30am-12.30	01803 862 356	01803 865 113
Tavistock	Lake, West St	9am-5.30pm (Mon-Sat)	01822 612 104	01822 618 648
Bideford	Lloyds, Abbotsham Rd	8.30am-6.30pm, Sat 9am-12noon	01237 472 002	01237 472 002
Ilfracombe	Lloyds, St Brannock's Rd	9am-6.30pm (weekdays only)	01271 867 524	01271 855 594
Lynton	Lynton Pharmacy	8.30am-6.30pm, Sat 8am-11am	01598 753 377	01598 753 377
Barnstaple	Boots, High St	8.30am-6pm, Sun 10am-4pm	01271 326 772	01271 326 773

Communications

We will be letting the public know through the Press and media about the National Pandemic Flu Service being stood down

Any media enquiries may be passed to NHS Devon's communications team on 01392 267648.