



RoodlaneMedical

H1N1 ("Swine Flu") Update 3rd July 2009

The number of new H1N1 cases in the UK is now increasing at a rapid rate and the Department of Health announced July 2nd that swab testing and the use of antivirals for prevention is no longer recommended across the UK. Cases will be diagnosed on symptoms alone and Tamiflu and Relenza will be obtained at a community level as described in the attached statement.

The message for businesses remains that the illness is milder than seasonal flu and is very mild for many people.

Those who are pregnant or have illnesses like asthma and diabetes are NOT more likely to contract the virus but they could be more unwell than others if they do catch it. This means that these groups should consider taking antivirals at an early stage.

Taking antivirals for prevention is no longer recommended but if people specifically request this it can be discussed on a case by case basis.

Associates should remain vigilant of symptoms and stay at home if they become unwell and contact their NHS GP or the National Flu Response Line.

Associates should follow hygiene precautions as described in earlier bulletins.

It is particularly important to identify people in your business who have exposure to many people e.g. IT desk top support, Post room workers, Porters, and ensure that they are aware of the symptoms of flu and do not come to work with symptoms.

Business continuity planning remains important and you should consider how key functions in your business will continue to operate with reduced personnel, how remote working can be configured and whether mixing and person to person contact in the office can be minimised through virtual meetings and other physical measures.

*Roodlane is able to offer advice to HR Departments but is not able to counsel individual employees unless they are part of a Corporate GP scheme or are being seen on a private basis. The advice remains that those with symptoms suggestive of Flu should **call** their NHS GP or the NHS Flu Response Line and remain on home quarantine.*

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