

SUBJECT: Influenza A (H1N1)

1. PURPOSE

This paper provides a summary of the experience and the response in NHS Lanarkshire to the Influenza A (H1N1) pandemic.

2. SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

- The first two cases of H1N1 in the UK were identified in Monklands Hospital at the end of April 2009. WHO increased the pandemic influenza phase and the initial policy was of containment to decrease the transmission rate. However, as case numbers continued to rise and outbreaks were reported, a 'treatment-only' phase was initiated to manage the pandemic.
- An increasing trend was noted until mid to late November followed by a sharp decline in December and a rise to a further, smaller peak in late December. Since then, influenza A (H1N1) levels have continued to decrease across Scotland including Lanarkshire, indicating that H1N1v illness remains low.
- H1N1 virus is likely to continue to circulate and become the dominant virus in the coming winter season.
- Managing a gradually changing situation presented a wide range of challenges.
- The duration and intensity of the work meant that capacity of NHS Lanarkshire was severely tested, but ultimately coped.
- Regular Problem Assessment Group (PAG) meetings ensured good communication within NHS Lanarkshire and our partner organisations which contributed significantly to the management of the pandemic.

3. CONCLUSION

The Board is asked to note:

- The extensive work that has been carried out in response to Influenza A (H1N1) across NHS Lanarkshire and the very helpful contribution of our local authority colleagues.
- A PAG paper reviewing the pandemic will be produced by the end of September 2010

4. FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information about any aspect of this paper, please contact

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