

# How the UK will respond

- UK Pandemic Influenza Contingency Plan – revised October 2005
- Phased response
- Roles and responsibilities
- Public health measures
- Health service response
- Public information and guidance



# Role of DH

- Providing overall leadership
- Leading the public health response
- Leading the health service response
- Providing others with the information they need for their own part of the response



# PA N D E M I C FL U

UK HEALTH DEPARTMENTS

## UK INFLUENZA PANDEMIC CONTINGENCY PLAN

MARCH 2005

### The UK Pandemic Influenza Contingency Plan: Key Objectives

- Strong surveillance and alert system
- Containing infection to reduce illness and deaths
- Treating the ill
- Ensuring the continuation of essential services to minimise social and economic disruption
- Ensuring that the public, health professionals and media have up-to-date, comprehensive information

# Support from the centre

DH will provide:

- Operational planning advice
- Advice on delivering the national antiviral strategy locally
- Clinical management guidelines
  - with patient treatment algorithms
- Infection control guidelines
- Guidance on mass vaccination



# Phases of the response

Phased approach (WHO Classification)

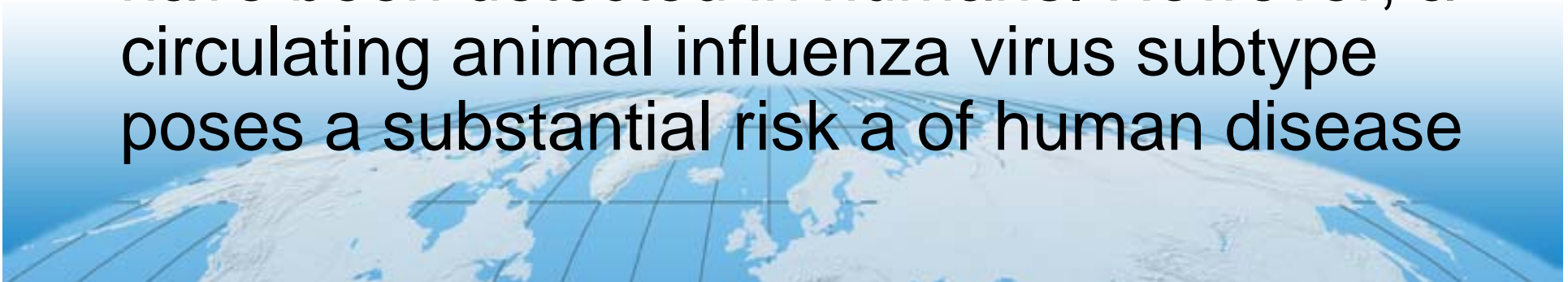
- **Interpandemic** period: *actions required before a pandemic is announced*
- **Pandemic alert** period: *escalation of preparedness plans*
- **Pandemic** period: *actions required once a pandemic is announced*
- **Post pandemic** period: *actions required when the pandemic is over*



# WHO Alert Phases

## INTERPANDEMIC PERIOD

- **Phase 1:** No new influenza virus subtypes have been detected in humans. An influenza virus subtype that has caused human infection may be present in animals. If present in animals, the risk a of human infection or disease is considered to be low
- **Phase 2:** No new influenza virus subtypes have been detected in humans. However, a circulating animal influenza virus subtype poses a substantial risk a of human disease



# WHO Alert Phases

## PANDEMIC ALERT PERIOD

### WHERE WE ARE NOW

- **Phase 3:** Human infection(s) with a new subtype, but no human-to-human spread, or at most rare instances of spread to a close contact





# WHO Alert Phases

## PANDEMIC ALERT PERIOD

- **Phase 4:** Small cluster(s) with limited human-to-human transmission but spread is highly localised, suggesting that the virus is not well adapted to humans
- **Phase 5:** Larger cluster(s) but human-to-human spread still localised, suggesting that the virus is becoming increasingly better adapted to humans, but may not yet be fully transmissible (substantial pandemic risk)



# WHO Alert Phases

## PANDEMIC PERIOD

- **Phase 6:** Increased and sustained transmission in general population



# Five UK alert levels

## Alert level

0 No cases anywhere in the world

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1 Cases only outside the UK

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2 New virus isolated in the UK

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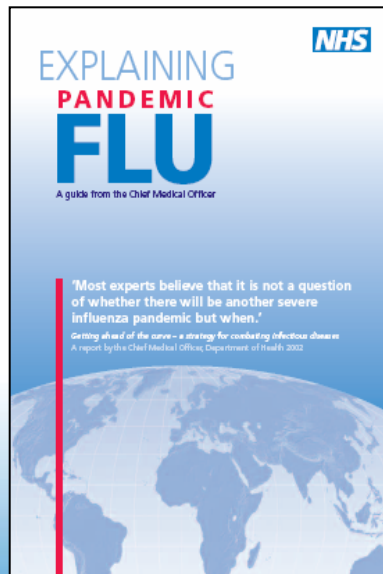
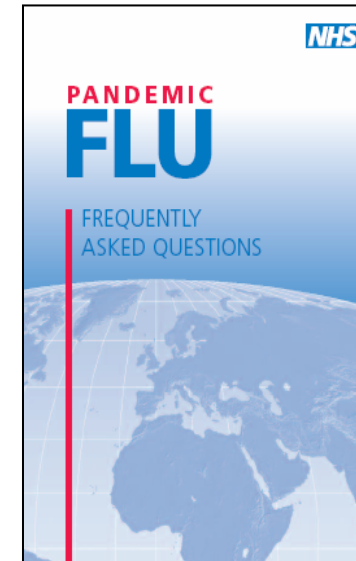
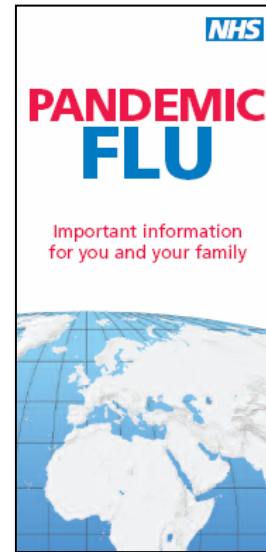
3 Outbreak(s) in the UK

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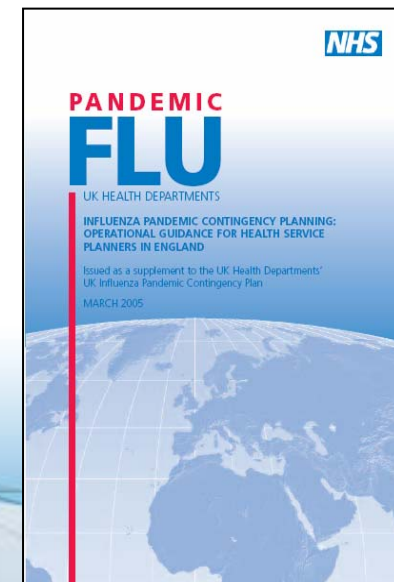
4 Widespread activity across the UK

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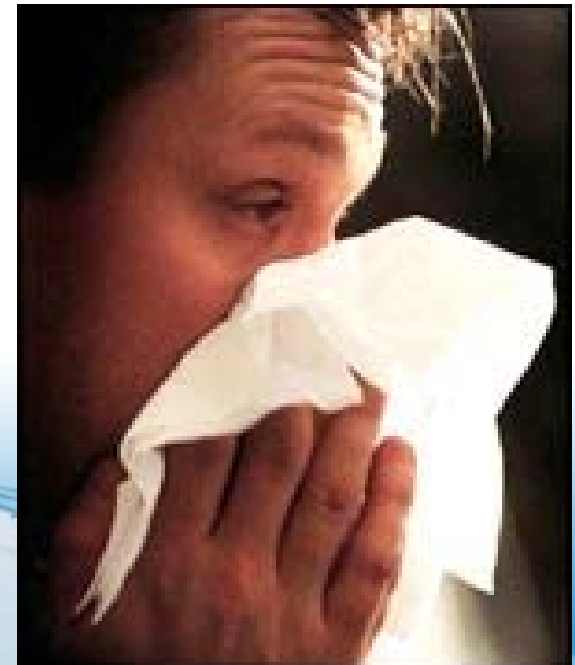


Resources available  
[www.dh.gov.uk/pandemicflu](http://www.dh.gov.uk/pandemicflu)



# Infection management and control

- Clinical management guidance and infection control guidance coming soon



# Summary

- Pandemic flu is different from ‘ordinary’ seasonal flu – more people will become ill, more will die
- Specific vaccine cannot be prepared ahead of the pandemic; actions are taking place to speed vaccine production as soon as the pandemic virus is identified
- Global surveillance is essential; international co-operation is well established



# Summary (cont)

- Antiviral drugs are being stockpiled; when a pandemic arrives they may help slow its progress and reduce severity of illness
- Social measures (for example basic hygiene or limiting some population movement) may help slow a pandemic
- Advance planning by Government, the NHS, essential services and local communities will help to reduce the impact



More information can be found  
at:

[www.dh.gov.uk/pandemicflu](http://www.dh.gov.uk/pandemicflu)

[www.hpa.org.uk](http://www.hpa.org.uk)

