



The Bedford Charity (The Harpur Trust)

Pandemic Flu Plan

(Extract for parents)

INTRODUCTION

There is a consensus of scientific advice which indicates that a flu pandemic will occur in the UK, though there is no way of predicting when such an event will occur. The purpose of this plan is to provide guidance to the operational units of the Charity in planning for a flu pandemic, which might lead to closure of the Charity's schools.

Each school has set up a FPMT (Flu Pandemic Management Team) to be chaired by Deputy Head (or equivalent) and that team will review this Plan annually early in the summer term. It will be reviewed by the Charity overall in the summer term to incorporate changes from the schools.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

In implementing the Plan, the following general principles will be applied:

The Schools will remain open, providing education, for as long as sufficient staff are available. Until a decision is taken to close (see below), they will provide as near to normal classes and curriculum as resources permit.

Though priorities might differ according to schools' needs and circumstances, Years 13-10 will take precedence (in descending order of priority) in the event of disruption.

During any period of closure, the Schools will continue to provide some form of education by remote methods for the duration of the closure, to the extent that this is feasible in a school's individual circumstances.

Communication of information to staff, parents and the public in general will be consistent in timing and detail across all of the schools.

DECISION TO CLOSE

The decision to close any school will be taken by the Chair (or Deputy Chair) of the Bedford Charity on the advice of the HTO and Heads. It will be informed by Government, Local Authority and Primary Care Trust advice. It is anticipated that any such decision will apply to all schools though in exceptional circumstances (e.g. excessive staff shortage), one or more schools might close and others remain open. Every effort will be made to avoid closure.

SCHOOL FLU PANDEMIC MANAGEMENT TEAM (FPMT)

The School Flu Pandemic Management Team (FPMT) will include the Deputy Head (Chair); Bursar; and representatives to cover Junior/Prep School; Curriculum; Pastoral Care; ICT; Personnel; Medical; Logistics; Communications and Marketing and Boarding (as appropriate).

PLANNING CHECK LIST

Each school has a check-list that they are using to monitor their progress in preparing to deal with a flu pandemic. Their progress against the check-list will be reported to the trustees of the Charity by the end of the autumn term.

WHO AND UK ALERT LEVELS

The school check-list is aligned with the WHO and UK alert levels are outlined in Annex A. Currently, the WHO level is Phase Three and schools are completing their preparations accordingly.

GOVERNMENT COMMUNICATION CHANNELS

The anticipated flow of government communications is outlined at Annex B

OTHER INFORMATION

Other sources of information and links to websites are at Annex C.

SUMMARY

It seems very likely that a flu pandemic will occur in the UK and this Plan is an attempt to coordinate the efforts of the Charity to mitigate its effects. A report will be made to trustees annually in the autumn, based upon the check-lists completed by the schools and the HTO. The Plan itself will be reviewed annually by schools in the spring term and by the Charity overall in the summer term.

David Russell
Chief Executive

14 November 2007

ANNEX A: WHO pandemic phases and UK ALERT LEVELS

| Inter-pandemic Period | | |
|-----------------------|---|--|
| 1 | No new influenza virus subtypes detected in humans | UK not affected UK has strong travel/trade connections with affected country UK affected |
| 2 | Animal influenza virus subtype poses substantial risk | |
| Pandemic Alert Period | | |
| 3 | Human infection(s) with a new subtype, but no new human to human spread to a close contact | UK not affected UK has strong travel/trade connections with affected country UK affected |
| 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 | |
| 5 | Large cluster(s) but human-to-human spread still localised, suggesting that the virus is becoming increasingly better adapted to humans | |
| Pandemic Period | | |
| 6 | Increased and sustained transmission in general population | UK Alert level 1 Virus/cases only outside the UK 2 Virus isolated in the UK 3 Outbreak(s) in the UK 4 Widespread activity across the UK |
| Post Pandemic Period | | |
| | End of pandemic Return to inter-pandemic period | |

Annex B – Government Communications Channels

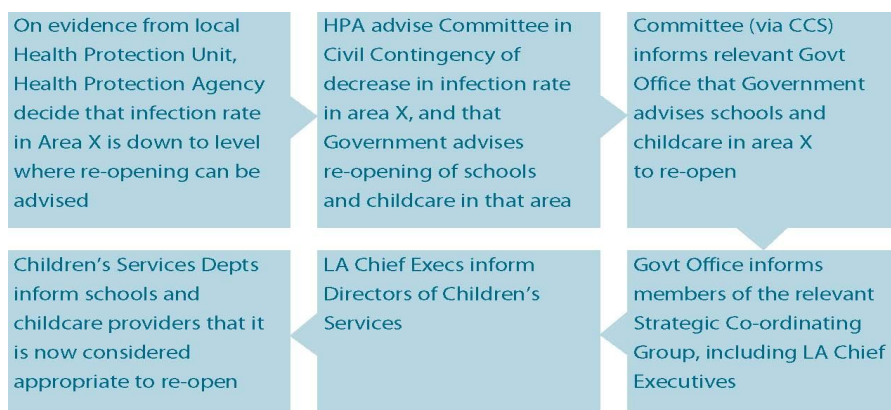
1. Principle decision taken on whether schools and childcare settings should close (based on medical evidence).



2. If principle decision to close has been taken, informing schools and childcare providers when the pandemic has reached an area.



3. Re-opening after closure.¹



¹ It is possible that partial reopening would be advised first (e.g. for children who had been infected and recovered).

Annex C: Further Information and links

Schools and Children's services guidance documents:

www.teachernet.gov.uk/humanflupandemic

Government wide planning available from the Department of Health:

www.dh.gov.uk/pandemicflu

Regional preparedness contacts are at:

www.gos.gov.uk/prepemergencies/preparedness/?a=42496

DfES / DH guidance on managing medicines in schools and early years settings:

www.publications.teachernet.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DFES-1448-2005

This has a chapter on dealing with medicines safely, including emergency procedures (e.g. staff should never take a child to hospital in their own car; it is safer to call an ambulance). Also see DfES guidance on First Aid:

www.teachernet.gov.uk/wholeschool/healthandsafety/firstaid

Advice on supporting a school where a pupil has died is at:

www.teachernet.gov.uk/wholeschool/healthandsafety/pupildfatality

General background: NHS leaflet for families available from DH on 08701 555 455 or dh@prolog.uk.com, or at: www.dh.gov.uk/pandemicflu

Information targeted at parents will be at: www.parentscentre.gov.uk or www.direct.gov.uk/Parents/fs/en

The Health Protection Agency website contains more information on relevant issues, including explaining the difference between avian, pandemic and seasonal flu: www.hpa.org.uk/infections/topics_az/influenza/default.htm

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