

## HICMR INFORMATION SHEET 2: 29<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2009

### PANDEMIC INFLUENZA - KEY MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

(Source: World Health Organisation – WHO; Centers for Disease Control - CDC)

**Pandemic Influenza** is an epidemic of an influenza virus that spreads on a worldwide scale and infects a large proportion of the human population. There is concern that this new strain of swine influenza may have pandemic potential. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), a pandemic can start when three conditions have been met:

- Emergence of a disease new to a population.
- Agents infect humans, causing serious illness.
- Agents spread easily and sustainably among humans.

Therefore we recommend the following:

#### 1. Key Management Principles

- ✓ Be prepared, stay calm, and keep up to date with Area/State and National Health Dept updates.
- ✓ Ensure staff, patients and visitors are aware of the situation:
  - Consider signage in Reception/Outpatient Areas
  - Encourage cough etiquette
  - Promote effective hand hygiene
  - Refer to HICMR Toolkits: *Acute Respiratory Infections; and Appropriate Precautions* for signage and Information Sheets, including *Hand Hygiene; Respiratory Hygiene/Cough Etiquette; Personal Protective Equipment; Airborne Precautions When Performing Aerosol Generating Procedures; Isolation and Ventilation Requirements.*
- ✓ Provide ongoing education for staff about Pandemic Influenza Management and appropriate Infection Control practices, including acute respiratory precautions. Refer HICMR Information Sheet April: Swine Influenza, and relevant HICMR Policies and Toolkits.
- ✓ Develop/update existing Emergency/Disaster Plans to include contingencies for a Pandemic Influenza, including business continuity issues – refer to your Corporate Management Team, and Area/State and National Health Depts for further information.
- ✓ Assess preparedness by utilising the Plan as appropriate, including Checklists - refer below 4: *Utilise Your Pandemic Plan.*
- ✓ Ensure high coverage of staff immunization, particularly for Influenza and pneumococcal disease.
- ✓ Assess Emergency Departments (ED)/Outpatient areas to ensure appropriate stocks of masks, eye protection, gloves, gowns and antivirals, and that staff are appropriately trained in their use.
- ✓ Update admission alerts as appropriate – refer Area/State and National Health Dept updates.
- ✓ Implement procedures to ensure notification of laboratory confirmed Influenza to the Health Department.
- ✓ Engage in negotiations with Corporate Office/Area/State and National Health Dept re role of Private healthcare facilities during Pandemic, include access to supplies, and communicate response to staff as relevant.
- ✓ Audit preparedness, eg. HICMR Internal Audit Tool: *Pandemic Influenza Preparedness and Response.*
- ✓ For further information refer to HICMR Policies and Toolkits, Corporate Pandemic Plans, Area/State Health and [http://www.healthemergency.gov.au/internet/healthemergency/publishing.nsf/Content/health-swine\\_influenza-index.htm](http://www.healthemergency.gov.au/internet/healthemergency/publishing.nsf/Content/health-swine_influenza-index.htm) <http://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/en/index.html> and <http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/>

#### 2. Develop a Pandemic Influenza Management Team

Designate who will assist in implementing and coordinating your facility's Pandemic Plan, including:

- Interface with authorities.
- Update staff re Government alerts.
- Coordinate supplies of PPE, Antivirals/vaccines, etc.
- Oversee Infection Control management.
- Coordinate health monitoring of patients and staff.
- Review additional workplace cleaning needs as required.

#### 3. Utilise Your Pandemic Plan

Assess preparedness utilizing a Pandemic Preparedness and Response Plan, including:

- Business Continuity Action Plan
- Business Continuity Checklists, eg: Supplies, HR, IT, Travel Plans
- Provide information, eg. Useful Numbers for Healthcare Professionals, and for the General Public; Useful Websites.
- ✚ Train the Management team and supports in all aspects of the Pandemic Plan.
- ✚ Continually test the Plan with exercise scenarios and upgrade the Plan regularly.