



[Issue 19](#)

[2pm, June 25 2009](#)

Current situation updated

The Health Protection Agency today (THURS) informed the University of Exeter that a further five students have tested positive to influenza A H1N1, following the diagnosis of ten students yesterday.

The University is continuing to work closely with the Health Protection Agency and NHS colleagues to monitor the situation. Devon PCT and the HPA have established plans in place to deal with cases of swine flu, and the University has a Flu Pandemic Contingency Plan.

Most people in this country have been affected only mildly by the flu and this remains the position with the students in Exeter, who are expected to make a full recovery following treatment.

Close contacts of the students are to be given antiviral drugs as a precaution. Students with mild symptoms are being asked to minimise contact with others, with general advice about managing flu symptoms. If symptoms are severe tests for swine flu will be offered.

The University has written to students to advise them of the current situation, and a reminder about how to access medical advice via NHS direct will go out later today.

Following a risk assessment carried out by the Health Protection Agency and Devon Primary Care Trust, the University was advised that no other actions are necessary and the institution can remain open. This remains the position today.

Several media interviews have taken place, with more planned for this afternoon, reiterating the main message that anyone with flu symptoms should contact NHS Direct in the first instance.

Posters are being distributed to Exeter University and GP practices, walk-in centres and RD&E with the same message.

Main message:

CATCH IT: germs spread easily. Always carry tissues and use them to catch your cough or sneeze.

BIN IT: Germs can live for several hours on tissues. Dispose of them as soon as possible.

KILL IT: Hands can transfer germs to any surface you touch. Clean your hands as soon as you can.”

Anyone experiencing flu-like symptoms is advised to contact NHS Direct on 0845 46 47 in the first instance.

Advice for GPs/healthcare staff

Flu response centres (FRCs) have been established to answer enquiries from health professionals regarding patients with flu-like illness and their contacts. To arrange patient assessment, samples, prophylaxis or to follow up contacts please call 0845 425 1754 (health professionals only). The line is open 8am-8pm only. At weekends or overnight please call any acute hospital in our patch and request to speak to the on-call public health professional.

General advice

We have transferred a great deal of general swine flu information to InfoPoint – the trust’s internal website. You must have an InfoPoint username and password to view this. If you have mislaid these or wish to re-register, please contact howard.chapman@nhs.net

To view all current advice click here:

http://www.infopoint.devonpct.nhs.uk/your-sites/Directorates/Public_Health/Swine_Flu_response.asp

Next update

The next update will be published when there is anything significant to report.