

## Flu Preparedness

I am pleased to confirm the hospital's arrangements for responding in the event of a major surge in the number of people affected by swine flu in 2009 and 2010. Our arrangements cover not only our response to caring for an increased number of patients but also the impact on our services from staff sickness.

We have been working internally and with our NHS partners to make sure that we can provide the highest level of acute care to patients. Patient safety remains our number one priority.

The actions we have taken in preparing for a major pandemic flu outbreak include:

### Leadership

- Responding to and following Department of Health and Health Protection Agency Swine Flu guidelines
- Working closely with NHS Suffolk – our lead primary care trust- and NHS East of England (our strategic health authority) to make sure there is a coordinated response to flu pandemic across the region
- Implementing our pandemic flu plan, including having a full-time director, a high level management control team and an operational management group, who will be able to quickly implement decisions such as postponing elective and non-urgent services so that the hospital will have more beds to care for patients with swine flu while at the same time making sure that emergency services remain fully operational.
- Testing and reviewing our pandemic flu and business continuity plans to make sure the impact on the hospital's day to day operations will be as limited as possible in the event of an outbreak.

### Governance

- Having a robust accountability and reporting system in place with NHS Suffolk and NHS East of England.
- Developing a shared communications strategy to give timely information to staff, the community we serve and key external partner organisations
- Making sure that we maintain accurate records of decisions, patient care, and vaccination uptake rates.

**Resilience**

- Undertaking the Health Protection Agency resilience test and exercise.
- Stress testing our Pandemic plans to ensure high level delivery of care to flu and non flu patients
- Ensuring arrangements are in place for front line staff to receive seasonal and H1N1 vaccines.

**Human Resources**

- Supporting and training staff in line with our pandemic flu plan.

Andrew Reed  
Chief Executive