

MH: 34:85

12 May 2009

Licensees of Medical Clinics

**MOH Circular 49/2009
PRIMARY CARE FLU PANDEMIC RESPONSE PLAN FOR INFLUENZA A H1N1-2009**

1. Following MOH's press announcement on 8 May 09, MOH has stepped down to DORSCON Yellow. Developments in other countries have shown that the Influenza A H1N1-2009 infection is characterised by lower Case Fatality Rate (CFR) than previously thought, but with greater potential for community spread.

Review of Strategy for Influenza A H1N1-2009

2. With better understanding of the disease, MOH is taking the opportunity to recalibrate our response and strategy. Barring unforeseen circumstances (e.g. increased case fatality rates), we will remain in DORSCON Yellow even if we have our first confirmed cases of Influenza A H1N1-2009.

3. As such we would like to make refinements to our earlier Flu Pandemic Response Plan to customize our responses based on our current assessment of the outbreak. This will better prepare the primary care system should there be community transmission of H1N1-2009 viruses.

Revised Framework for Influenza A H1N1

4. The revised framework will be activated when there is evidence of sustained community transmission of Influenza A H1N1-2009 in Singapore, **even if we are in DORSCON Yellow.** Clinics which participate in the revised framework will be collectively referred to as "**Pandemic Preparedness Clinics**" (PPC).

5. Annex A provides details of the support from MOH as well as the necessary commitment from PPCs.

Action Required By Pandemic Preparedness Clinics

6. Please refer to Annex B which provides instructions to confirm your readiness to participate in this revised framework. Please log on to the Health Check System between **14 May 2009 and 21 May 2009.**

Further Information

7. Clinics that have **not signed up previously** but are interested to do so can contact MOH for details.

8. For any clarifications of this circular, please email moh_conversations@moh.gov.sg. For updates on the evolving Influenza A H1N1-2009 situation, please refer to the MOH website www.moh.gov.sg



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Brief Outline of the Revised Framework for Influenza A H1N1-2009 for Pandemic Preparedness Clinics (PPCs)

1. **Activation**: The revised framework will be activated when there is evidence of sustained community transmission in Singapore. Such evidence is provided by the presence of multiple confirmed cases who have no clear travel history to affected areas or contact history with other probable or confirmed cases. **MOH will be responsible for activating the revised framework.**

Support from MOH

2. **PPE supply**: In order to adequately equip PPCs, MOH will supply them with PPE according to the norms given in Table 1. These norms are based on the recommendations from SMA and CFPS, in accordance with the latest MOH circular on PPE use. Clinics will not be charged for these PPEs.

Table 1: PPE norms

	Per week per clinic	Per re-supply (4 wks) per clinic
N95 Mask	40	160
Surgical Mask	100	400
Gown	30	120
Gloves	700	2800

3. **Tamiflu for clinic staff**: MOH is currently working out the guidelines for appropriate usage of Tamiflu by clinic staff. This Tamiflu will be provided free-of-charge to PPCs.

4. **Tamiflu for treating patients**: PPCs will also be supplied with Tamiflu for treating patients, to be prescribed based on MOH guidelines (see para 5 below). PPCs will be charged for this Tamiflu supply.¹

5. **Decal**: PPCs will be supplied with a decal for easy identification by members of the public. The list of PPCs will be posted on the MOH website and updated periodically.

Commitment from Pandemic Preparedness Clinics

6. **Prescribing guidelines for patients**: PPCs are expected to comply with MOH guidelines on the use of Tamiflu for treatment of patients. In addition, the use of Tamiflu has to be recorded real-time using the Health Check System (HCS) through internet connection from the clinic.

7. **Operational Matters**: PPCs are expected to at least maintain the same operating hours as before the pandemic began. Please inform MOH via email if you

¹ The price of Tamiflu will be standardized across all clinics, including polyclinics.

need to close the clinic due to unforeseen circumstances. Clinics are also expected to comply with infection control measures as per MOH advisories.

8. Communications: Clinics are expected to maintain an active email account, and provide the email address to MOH to facilitate speedy communications particularly during times of pandemic.

9. Deactivation: The decision to stand down or deactivate the revised framework will be made by MOH based on surveillance data.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS CLINICS TO CONFIRM READINESS

1. Please log on to the Health Check System (HCS) between **14 May 2009 and 21 May 2009** as a one-off exercise to confirm the readiness of your electronic linkage. There is no requirement to create any case in the system. Doctors can access the Health Check System via the Health Professionals Portal (HPP) or directly at <https://healthcheck.moh.gov.sg> with their SingPass or their Medical Council Register (MCR) numbers and their corresponding passwords.
2. MOH will send you an email to confirm your participation. Please acknowledge the email by following the instructions in the email.
3. After the acknowledgement, MOH will follow-up by sending you a decal indicating your status as a PPC, HCS User Manual as well as MOH guidelines on the use of Tamiflu.