

Swine Flu PPE for Community Clinicians (GPs and District Nurses) LMC view from PHR

Current case definitions are defined in the algorithm

http://www.hpa.org.uk/web/HPAwebFile/HPAweb_C/1240732819361

**Definition of a probable case is microbiological and ignores clinical probability
eg a proven case in a household, and flulike symptoms in someone else in the house but not yet
demonstrated as swab positive.
GPs are unhappy with such a limited definition**

The current policy recommended by the TVHPU exceeds that of the WHO (see box below) and the justification for this is given below.

Current national HPA guidelines suggest FFP3 and eye protection be used if a suspected case requires hospital admission due to severity of illness.

Until it is known if Swine flu has a high morbidity and/or mortality (as was suggested by the early Mexico experience) it is currently recommended by the local TVHPU that for patients with **probable** or **confirmed** H1N1 receiving management at home (e.g. if taking swabs of symptomatic contacts in probable/confirmed case's home), FFP3 and eye protection also be used.

ie clinicians in the community are given similar protection to hospital clinicians.

LMC expects that the current TVHPU recommendation will be reviewed and reversion to the national guidelines considered at a time when the exact threat to GPs is known (and hopefully proven to be low)

This should not happen until we are all certain that the clinical course is relatively benign

Until that point is reached LMC could not support relaxing the local policy on using maximum PPE when GPs are exposed to a probable or confirmed flu case

National Guidelines on FFP3 or surgical facemasks_for patients with suspected probable or confirmed H1N1 influenza

1. **For routine examinations and procedures**

(including nasal and throat swabs)

Standard fluid-repellent surgical face mask; gloves; apron

If there is a risk of splashes onto the face, goggles and a gown should be worn

2. **For aerosol-generating procedures only**

(primarily intubation, NP aspiration, tracheostomy care, chest physiotherapy, bronchoscopy and nebuliser therapy)

A fit-tested FFP3 face mask (disposable or reusable)

Eye protection (e.g. goggles); gloves; gown

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