

Forward Look – Kevin Dodds

The Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Programme (PIPP) Board met on the 8th October and signed off the pan flu programme for the next 6 months. This is subject to there being no significant high consequence infectious diseases incidents to manage.

Agreed Areas of Work for the Next 6 Months

Working with PHE to progress the APA re-procurement

Securing funding in principle for the Capital Bid and commencing market engagement

Holding at least one meeting of the Moral and Ethical Advisory Group (MEAG)

Potential policy work around the H7N9 clinical trials

Preparations for table top exercise for pan flu in 2020 – this is provisionally scheduled for April-July 2020 (dependent on EU Exit or other incidents).

Routine governance (e.g. business cases and stockpiling)

Attendance at expert and governance groups

Oversight of work led elsewhere, including CCS work with DAs to conclude actions on the Bill, and NHS England work on clinical guidance and on surge guidance.

Areas of Work not Prioritised for the Next 6 Months

Adult Social Care – The briefing paper which outlined plans to augment adult social and community care during a pandemic, was agreed by the former CMO, CSA and CNO in July 2018. DHSC policy and social care team to work with NHS E/I to agree next steps.

Pandemic Influenza Public Health Communications Strategy – The content was signed off by the four UK CMOs in May 2018 but needs further work to finalise it ahead of ministerial sign off. A Concept of Operations (ConOps) document to outline the communications command structure and the responsibilities of Departments, DAs and local level responders during an influenza pandemic needs to be developed.

Refresh of UK Pandemic Influenza Strategy – Update the content of the 2011 UK Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Strategy to ensure that UK Pandemic Influenza preparedness and response policy is accurate and up to date.

October 2019

- PIPP Board (8th)
- MEAG (25th)

November 2019

- PFRB (27th)

December 2019

- NERV TAG (17th)

The Pandemic Flu Readiness Board (PFRB) – Official level cross-Government group jointly chaired by DHSC and CCS. Plan to meet on 27th November following 12 month gap. This meeting will discuss cross Government work programme for the next phase, including health and social care.

Workstream 1 - healthcare surge. The briefing paper produced for the then CMO, CSA and CNO on population triage/ extreme surge management was signed off in December 2017.

Workstream 2 – Adult Social Care. The briefing paper which outlined plans to augment adult social and community care during a pandemic, was agreed by the former CMO, CSA and CNO in July 2018.

Pandemic Influenza Public Health Communications Strategy - This document outlines the key areas where multi-agency communications will be used in the event of a flu pandemic.

Refresh of UK Pandemic Influenza Strategy – The updated strategy will amalgamate and/or reference relevant pan flu documentation and will be designed for use by Health/Social Care staff and Local Resilience Groups, whilst remaining widely accessible.