

During a pandemic NSC (THRC) will co-ordinate central government activities, make key strategic decisions such as the countermeasures required and determine UK priorities. It is also likely that Cabinet Office Briefing Room (COBR) will activate a Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE) to co-ordinate strategic scientific and technical advice to support UK cross-government decision making. DH, as lead government department, would work closely with the devolved administrations using meetings of the four nations' health departments at official and ministerial level, which worked particularly well during the influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 pandemic, to agree health specific issues ahead of NSC(THRC) discussions. 'Responding to emergencies – The UK Central Government Response Concept of Operations' details how the UK government responds to emergencies.

Exercises and testing are still needed on an ongoing basis within individual organisations and with partner organisations to test assumptions and interrelated aspects of plans:

- co-ordination of a pandemic response is key to ensure best use of resources and to achieve the best outcome for the local area
- continuity plans are needed to underpin pandemic influenza response, in common with many other emergency response plans