

## **Swine Flu Update from NHS *The Week***

### **Thursday 22 October**

New guidance to support pandemic planners has been published today. The latest evidence suggests that the pandemic may peak at a lower rate than originally thought.

However, the number of cases is rising rapidly and a 96% increase has been seen in the last week. The number of patients in critical care is currently higher than at any point during the first wave, and four times the level of four weeks ago. All organisations must continue to plan for managing swine flu alongside the added pressures of winter.

The swine flu vaccination programme has begun this week in acute trusts and deliveries will begin to PCTs, acute, mental health and ambulance trusts from next Monday.

Read the new guidance and supporting letters at:

[www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH\\_107413](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_107413)