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Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC)

Follow up Teleconference to Review progress on the AHMPPI

Friday 10 May 2013, 1100-1300 AEST

Outcomes

1. Welcome and Apologies

AHPPC Members:	
Prof. Chris Baggoley	Chair and Chief Medical Officer (CMO)
Dr Kerry Chant	New South Wales, BBVSS *Observer: Dr Jeremy McAnulty
Dr Rosemary Lester	Victoria, CDNA
Dr Jeannette Young	Queensland
Dr Stephen Christley	South Australia (SA)
Prof. Tarun Weeramanthri	Western Australia *Observer: Dr Paul Armstrong
Dr Mark Veitch	Tasmania (TAS)
Dr Christine Connors	Northern Territory
Dr Paul Kelly	Australian Capital Territory (ACT) *Observer: Dr Andrew Pengilly
Rear Admiral Robyn Walker	Australian Defence Force
Ms Rebecca Hoskins	Emergency Management Australia (EMA)
Dr Len Notaras	National Critical Care and Trauma Response Centre (NCCTRC)
Prof. Beverley Raphael	National Mental Health Disaster Response Committee Representative
Mr Greg Munday	Health Disaster Expert Council of Ambulance Authorities (CAA)
Dr Mark Jacobs	New Zealand *Observer: Dr Fran McGrath
Ms Alison McMillan	Health Disaster Expert
Apologies:	
Dr Barbara Paterson	NT represented by Dr Christine Connors, A/g CMO
Dr Roscoe Taylor	TAS represented by Dr Mark Veitch, Senior Medical Adviser
Mr Mark Crossweller	EMA Represented by proxy Ms Rebecca Hoskins, Planning and Engagement Crisis Coordination Branch
Dr David Smith	PHLN
Mr Jim Dodds	enHealth
Dr Marilyn Cruickshank	AMRSC
Dr Gary Lum	NHEMS
Prof. Fiona Wood	Clinical Burns Expert
Dr Rosemary Bryant	Commonwealth Chief Nurse and Midwifery Officer
Department of Health and Ageing:	
Ms Megan Morris	First Assistant Secretary, Office of Health Protection (OHP)
Dr Jenny Firman	Principal Medical Adviser, OHP
Mr Rob Cameron	Assistant Secretary (AS), Health Emergency Management Branch
Ms Sharon Flanigan	Director, Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Section
Ms Sandra Gebbie	Director, Health Emergency Countermeasures Section
Ms Rhonda Owen	Director, Vaccine Preventable Diseases Surveillance Section
Ms Joanne Laurence	Health Emergency Countermeasures Section
Ms Teresa Morahan	A/g AS, Health Protection Policy Branch
Mr Neil Branch	Media Adviser
Ms Sara Kennedy	Secretariat

2. Update on departmental activity around H7N9

AHPPC noted that the Department has:

- issued information and recommendations, including a case definition and guidance to clinicians and laboratories and a current summary of the outbreak of Influenza A(H7N9) in China and that this information is available on the Department's website.
- finalised leaflets for travellers returning to Australia with specific information about Influenza A(H7N9) and what to do if they are feeling ill and that these have been distributed to airports for ready deployment if needed. In addition, in-flight

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announcements are being tailored for use on relevant flights and will be similarly pre-deployed when finalised.

Actions

- DoHA to ensure that New Zealand members are on the distribution list to receive copies of the Daily Surveillance Report on Influenza A(H7N9).
- AHPPC Secretariat to email the leaflet to members.

3. Discussion of key policy advice from CDNA

AHPPC noted the three key policy advice papers on:

- *Antiviral strategies for an influenza pandemic*;
- *Infection control in health care settings during an influenza pandemic*;
- *Isolation and quarantine during an influenza pandemic*;
- that a summary of the *Mathematical modelling of antivirals for a public health response to an influenza pandemic* is to be developed by DoHA in consultation with Dr Jodie McVernon, Melbourne University; and
- that pharmacies could play an important role in the distribution of antivirals in a pandemic.

AHPPC agreed:

- In principle to the table on page 2 in the *Antiviral strategies for an influenza pandemic* paper; and
- to the reduction in the period of isolation and quarantine associated with the use of antivirals as outlined in the *Isolation and quarantine during an influenza pandemic* paper Page 2, Section 1.

Actions

- DoHA to distribute a summary of the *Mathematical modelling of antivirals for a public health response to an influenza pandemic* paper to members as soon as possible.
- CDNA to finalise and endorse the three policy papers on:
 - *Antiviral strategies for an influenza pandemic*;
 - *Infection control in health care settings during an influenza pandemic*; and
 - *Isolation and quarantine during an influenza pandemic*.
- DoHA to ensure adequate coverage of information on isolation and quarantine needs in the Communications chapter of the AHMPPI during a pandemic.
 - CDNA to provide advice on school closures.
 - DoHA to include information on school closures in the AHMPPI.

4. Revision of policy on the use of thermal scanners as a border measure

AHPPC agreed in principle that the evidence to date indicated that thermal scanners as a border measure were not effective. AHPPC has recommended that thermal scanners would not be deployed at this stage.

Action

- DoHA to distribute out of session, the revised policy on the use of thermal scanners as a border measure to members.

5. Other business: Should there be a requirement for further meetings, members will be contacted.