Surname

Centre Number

2

Other Names



GCE AS/A level

1661/01

APPLIED SCIENCE UNIT 1

A.M. THURSDAY, 16 May 2013

11/2 hours

For Examiner's use only				
	Question	Max. Mark	Mark Awarded	
Section A	1-8	30		
	9	8		
	10	12		
Section B	11	9		
	12	5		
	13	10		
	14	6		
Total		80		

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

In addition to this examination paper, you will need a calculator and ruler.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Use black ink or black ball-point pen.

Write your name, centre number and candidate number in the spaces at the top of this page.

Answer all questions.

Write your answers in the spaces provided in this booklet.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

Section A is based on the pre-release article (included).

The number of marks is given in brackets at the end of each question or part-question.

You are reminded that assessment will take into account the quality of written communication used in your answers.

A data sheet is included on page 28.

Pre-release article

1

Swine flu case study: Tragedy struck young mother only weeks after she gave birth

Among the first Scottish victims of the virus was a young mother who, according to her family, was fit and healthy before she died of swine flu just a month after giving birth to her second child. Sarah Johnston, from Clydebank, contracted the virus soon after giving birth to Leo in October last year. But within weeks of the birth on 29 November, Ms Johnston died, leaving behind the baby, her one-year-old son John and partner William Long, 27. The Scottish Government linked Ms Johnston's death to "underlying health problems" but her family insisted the only factors involved were the normal stresses of childbirth.

10 Family members said that both Ms Johnston and Leo were healthy when they were sent home to Clydebank, but the new mother complained of being unwell and developed symptoms of swine flu days later. A GP attended and ordered her to go straight to A&E at the Glasgow Royal Infirmary due to her breathing difficulties.

She was moved to the intensive care ward and treated with ventilators. She was later transferred to London's Royal Brompton Hospital for specialist treatment but died after complications, including deep vein thrombosis and bleeding on her brain. Following her sudden death, Ms Johnston's mother Mary, her brother Jim and sister Kay spoke of their devastation and urged all pregnant women to get the swine flu vaccination.

news.scotsman.com

20 What is Swine flu?

Swine flu is the common name given to a relatively new strain of influenza (flu) that caused a flu pandemic in 2009-2010. It is also referred to as H1N1 influenza (because it is the H1N1 strain of virus).



Fig 1 The H1N1 (Swine flu) virus as seen under the electron microscope

Current status

On 10 August 2010, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared that the H1N1 influenza pandemic was officially over. However, it is important not to ignore H1N1 flu.



Week 40 = October

30 Fig 2 The number of swine flu cases in 1999-2000, 2009-2010 and 2010-2011

 $1661 \\ 010003$

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-	

Table 1 Swine flu cases across Wales in 2009

Local Health Board	Rate per 100 000 w/c 13.07.09	Rate per 100 000 w/c 07.12.09
Anglesey	46.5	13.4
Gwynedd	75.3	28.1
Conwy	74.5	20.3
Denbighshire	109.9	28.7
Flintshire	131.4	31.4
Wrexham	156.3	40.2
Powys	113.8	17.8
Ceredigion	58.8	35.8
Pembrokeshire	65.0	36.0
Carmarthenshire	67.6	24.6
Swansea	55.4	21.6
Neath Port Talbot	52.2	31.1
Bridgend	83.4	28.7
Vale of Glamorgan	191.8	39.9
Cardiff	51.5	41.3
Rhondda Cynon Taf	80.1	16.8
Merthyr Tydfil	100.7	40.4
Caerphilly	129.2	88.5
Blaenau Gwent	129.8	25.2
Torfaen	174.2	20.9
Monmouthshire	151.7	36.6
Newport	181.6	34.5

What to do if you have H1N1 flu

People with H1N1 flu typically have a fever or high temperature (over 38°C) and may also have aching muscles, sore throat or a dry cough. The symptoms are very similar to other types of seasonal flu. Most people recover within a week, even without special treatment. The National Pandemic Flu Service no longer operates.

Do you	think you have
	ing flu?
SVV	
DO	
Swine flu information line	INFORMATION
145 Direct 0845 4647	0800 1 513 513 www.nhs.uk www.direct.gov.uk/swineflu
🖀 GP 📃	
-	
DON'T	Do you have flu-like symptoms?
GP)	If yes, please STOP a moment and read below.
	Please do not go into your GP surgery, A&E,
A&E	So that the virus is not spread. If sity, please call the freephone number
\$	above; NHS Direct on 0545 4547 or your GP from home. They will give you advice on your symptoms and the next steps you should take. Ask your flu buddy to collect any medicine you may need.

High-risk groups

Some people are more at risk of complications if they catch flu. People are particularly vulnerable if they have:

- chronic lung disease
- chronic heart disease
- chronic kidney disease
- chronic liver disease
- chronic neurological disease (neurological disorders include motor neurone disease, multiple sclerosis and Parkinson's disease)
- immunosuppression (whether caused by disease or treatment)
- diabetes mellitus.

Also at risk are:

- patients who have had drug treatment for asthma in the past three years
- pregnant women
- people aged 65 and over.

How to stop the virus spreading

The most important way to stop flu spreading is to have good respiratory and hand hygiene. This means sneezing into a tissue and quickly putting it in a bin. Wash your hands and work surfaces regularly and thoroughly to kill the virus. Anyone who is concerned about flu symptoms should contact their GP, who will determine the most appropriate action to take.

How H1N1 flu is spread

Evidence from previous pandemics suggests that one person will infect about two others, and that flu spreads particularly rapidly in closed communities such as schools or residential homes. People are most infectious soon after they develop symptoms, although they can spread the virus for up to five days after the start of symptoms (for children this is seven days).

The H1N1 flu virus is spread in exactly the same way as ordinary cold and flu viruses. The virus is contained in the millions of tiny droplets that come out of the nose and mouth when someone coughs or sneezes. These droplets typically spread about 1 metre. They hang suspended in the air for a while, but then land on surfaces, where the virus can survive for up to 24 hours.

Anyone who touches these surfaces can spread the virus by touching anything else. Everyday items at home and in public places may have traces of the virus. These include food, door handles, remote controls, hand rails and computer keyboards. People usually become infected by picking up the virus on their hands from contaminated objects and then placing their hands near their mouth or nose. It is also possible to breathe in the virus if it is suspended in airborne droplets

70 droplets.

40

Good hygiene

Preventing the spread of the virus is the most effective way to slow the spread of diseases such as swine flu:

- Ensure everyone washes their hands regularly with soap and water.
- Clean surfaces regularly.
- Use tissues to cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze.
- Put used tissues in a bin as soon as possible.

Symptoms of H1N1 flu

If you or a member of your family has a fever or high temperature (over 38°C) and two or more of the following symptoms, you may have H1N1 flu:

- unusual tiredness
- headache
- runny nose
- sore throat
- shortness of breath or cough
- loss of appetite
- aching muscles
- diarrhoea or vomiting.



Fig 3 Symptoms of swine flu

What to do

⁹⁰ If you have flu-like symptoms, stay at home, get plenty of rest and use over-the-counter painkillers to relieve symptoms. If you are concerned, contact your GP, who will determine the most appropriate action to take.

Outlook

For most people, the illness appears to be mild. For a minority of people, the virus can cause severe illness. In many of these cases, other factors contribute to the severity of the illness. When complications occur, they are usually caused by the virus affecting the lungs. Infections such as pneumonia can develop.

What happens in the lungs during swine flu?

Scientists have examined microscope slides of lung sections taken from patients who died during the swine flu pandemic. They found "a spectrum of damage in both the upper and lower respiratory tract". In all cases, the upper respiratory tract (the trachea and bronchi) were inflamed and sometimes severely damaged. In over half of the cases studied, damage was also seen lower down, in the bronchioles, and in over three-quarters of cases there was also damage to the alveoli. This damage to the lung differs from seasonal flu which can damage the trachea and bronchi, but does not cause deep lung damage.

Treating H1N1 flu

Paracetamol

As with ordinary flu, people who have H1N1 flu should get lots of rest and use standard paracetamol-based cold remedies to reduce their temperature and help relieve symptoms.

110 Some over-the-counter treatments used by adults can be given to children for the relief of the symptoms. Follow the instructions that come with each medicine. However, children under 16 **must not** be given aspirin or ready-made flu remedies containing aspirin. Always read the label or check with the pharmacist that a medicine is suitable for children.



Antivirals

The antiviral medications oseltamivir (Tamiflu) and zanamivir (Relenza) may be used to treat some people with H1N1 flu. Your GP will decide if these are necessary.

Antivirals are not a cure for H1N1 flu, but will help:

- reduce the length of time you are ill by around one day;
- relieve some of the symptoms;
- reduce the potential for serious complications such as pneumonia.

Tamiflu and Relenza are both medicines of the same type, but Relenza comes as an inhaler (rather than a pill) and is recommended for use in pregnancy.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) recommends the antiviral medicines Tamiflu and Relenza to prevent flu if **all** of the following apply:

- The amount of flu virus circulating is sufficient to mean that if someone has a flu-like illness, it is likely to have been caused by this flu virus;
- The person has a certain medical condition or is over 65;
- The person has been in contact with someone with a flu-like illness and can start treatment within 36 hours (Relenza) or within 48 hours (Tamiflu);
- The person has not been effectively protected by vaccination.

People who are not effectively protected by vaccination include:

- Those who have not been vaccinated since the previous winter;
- Those who cannot be vaccinated, or who have been vaccinated but it has not taken effect yet;
- Those who have been vaccinated for a different form of flu virus.

If there is an outbreak of seasonal flu in a residential or nursing home, Tamiflu and Relenza may be offered to people if they have been in contact with someone with confirmed flu. This is because these homes are closed places in which flu can spread quickly.

Antibiotics

140 Antibiotics are used to treat H1N1 flu patients who develop complications. They help combat bacterial infections such as pneumonia. In hospitals, antibiotics will be used to treat the most ill patients and may reduce the length of hospitalisation.

Seasonal flu jab

More recently, the H1N1 flu virus will be one of the main strains circulating, so it has been included in the seasonal flu jab. It means that the vaccine will protect you from H1N1 flu, as well as other strains.

120

Vaccination is given free of charge to the following at-risk people, to protect them from flu:

- people with a serious medical condition;
- people aged 65 or over;
- pregnant women;
- people living in a residential or nursing home;
- the main carers for an elderly or disabled person whose welfare may be at risk if the carer becomes ill;
- healthcare or social care professionals directly involved in patient care;
- those who work in close contact with poultry, such as chickens.

The seasonal flu vaccine has been extended to pregnant women not in the high-risk groups. This is because there is good evidence that all pregnant women are at increased risk from complications if they catch H1N1 flu. Previously, only pregnant women in high-risk groups were offered the seasonal flu vaccine.

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	SECTION A
	Answer all questions.
Vhy	is good hygiene important during flu outbreaks? [1
 (a)	Patients suffering from chronic lung disease are more at risk from complications if the catch flu. Name one chronic lung disease.
(b)	State two other groups of patients that are considered at high risk of complications they catch flu.
For (a)	this question you will need to refer to the chart on page 3. During what period of 2010-2011 , was the number of swine flu cases at its maximum?
For (a) (b)	this question you will need to refer to the chart on page 3. During what period of 2010-2011 , was the number of swine flu cases at its maximum?
For (<i>a</i>) (<i>b</i>) (<i>c</i>)	this question you will need to refer to the chart on page 3. During what period of 2010-2011 , was the number of swine flu cases at its maximum? [] The population of Wales is 3 million (3 000 000). Estimate the number of cases of swin flu in Wales at the peak of the outbreak in 1999-2000 . How many cases per 100000 are considered the maximum level for 'normal seasona
For (<i>a</i>) (<i>b</i>) (<i>c</i>) (<i>d</i>)	this question you will need to refer to the chart on page 3. During what period of 2010-2011 , was the number of swine flu cases at its maximum? [] The population of Wales is 3 million (3 000 000). Estimate the number of cases of swin flu in Wales at the peak of the outbreak in 1999-2000 . [2 How many cases per 100 000 are considered the maximum level for 'normal seasona activity'? [] Suggest two reasons why no data is shown on the chart for the period 2000-2009 . [2]
For (<i>a</i>) (<i>b</i>) (<i>c</i>) (<i>d</i>)	this question you will need to refer to the chart on page 3. During what period of 2010-2011 , was the number of swine flu cases at its maximum? [] The population of Wales is 3 million (3 000 000). Estimate the number of cases of swin flu in Wales at the peak of the outbreak in 1999-2000 . [2] How many cases per 100000 are considered the maximum level for 'normal seasona activity'? [] Suggest two reasons why no data is shown on the chart for the period 2000-2009 . [2] []

Examiner only

Examiner only 5. State two symptoms of swine flu that affect the respiratory system. (a)[2] The diagram below shows the human respiratory system. (b)0 S R Р State which letter(s) correspond to the upper and lower respiratory systems. [2] Upper respiratory system Lower respiratory system Describe how damage to the lower respiratory system would affect the process of gas (c)exchange. [3]

Examiner only

(d) The upper respiratory tract has a number of adaptations. **Complete** the table below to show how the upper respiratory tract is adapted for its function. [2]

Adaptation	Function
Ring of cartilage	
	Traps bacteria and dirt, lubrication
Cilia	

6.	You follow	need to refer to Table 1 on page 4 showing 'Swine flu cases across Wales' to answer t wing questions.	he Examiner
	(a)	State which Local Health Board had the highest incidence of swine flu during the we commencing 7/12/2009.	eek [1]
	(b)	Calculate the percentage change in the number of cases of swine flu in Carmarthensh between 13/07/09 and 07/12/09.	ire [3]
	(c)	Suggest one reason why the Welsh Government monitors the number of swine flu cas	es. [1]
7.	Sugg	est one reason why everyone in the UK isn't offered a vaccine for H1N1 flu.	[1]
8.	(a)	Suggest one reason why antibiotics aren't routinely prescribed for swine flu patients.	[1]
	(<i>b</i>)	Give two reasons why antivirals are not prescribed for all swine flu patients.	[2]

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only **SECTION B** A trainee physiotherapist is studying the human circulatory system. The diagram below shows the circulatory system in the human body. 9. B A Identify the types of vessels shown at A and B. [2] *(a)* Α B *(b)* Using the outlines below, show how the wall and lumen of vessels A and B differ in size. [2] B A

Examiner

(1661-01)

(c) Besides the thickness of the wall and lumen size, state **two** ways in which vessel A is adapted for its function, and explain the importance of each adaptation. [4]

Adaptation 1:
Importance:
Adaptation 2:
Importance:

Examiner only

Examiner only 10. Gwynfor is a student nurse. During his training he needs to learn how to use physiological measurement equipment. Identify each item of equipment below and state what they are used for. [8] *(a)* (i) (Summer Name of Equipment Use (ii) 164 Name of Equipment

Use



(b)

Examiner only

(c) The results below were obtained by testing different patients using equipment found in part (a) of this question. Match each trace to the correct diagnosis from the following list by inserting a letter A, B, C, D or E next to the test result. One is done for you. [3]



		IE
Ffion	has broken her leg in a serious accident. An X-ray was taken of her leg.	Exa c
	istockplate	
(a)	Describe how an X-ray produces the image shown above.	[4]
(b)	State three safety precautions to prevent over-exposure to the radiographer.	[3]
	1	
	2	
	3	
(c)	After surgery Ffion has metal plates inserted into her leg. Explain why an MRI c be used after this surgery.	annot [2]

12. Brian was studying the different components of the blood. Red blood cells make up a large part of the blood.



(a) Draw a diagram in the space below to show the appearance of this cell along line **XX**.

(b) Apart from shape, state two ways that a red blood cell is adapted for its function. [2]
1.
2.
(c) Describe the route taken by a red blood cell from leaving the right ventricle of the heart to entering the left atrium. [2]

Examiner only

[1]

Examiner only

13. During the 1970's it became widely accepted that cigarette smoking was a cause of lung cancer although earlier studies had already suggested a link. In 2007 the government banned smoking in public places. The data below shows the results of a study into the number of people smoking during the period 1950-2010.

Year	% Male smoking prevalence	% Female smoking prevalence
1950	62	38
1960	61	42
1970	55	44
1980	42	35
1990	31	29
2000	29	25
2010	22	20

(a) Plot a chart to show how the number of male smokers has changed between 1950 and 2010. [4]



£13 923.00

£18 564.00

£27 846.00

(b) Predic	t the number of	male smokers ir	n 2020. Give two	reasons for you	ır choice.	[2]	r
(c) The fo Compl	llowing data wa ete the table belo	s taken from an ow by filling in t	anti-smoking w the missing data	vebsite. 1		[2]	
A person sm	oking 60 cigare	ttes per day cou	uld save over £2	27 000 by stopp	oing smoking!	!	
	Money in your	pocket is one b	enefit you'll fee	l straight away.			
	Based	I on the price of	20 cigarettes =	= £5.10			
Cigarettes per day	1 day	1 week	1 month	1 year	5 years		
5	£1.28	£8.96	£38.83	£465.92	£2 329.60		
10	£2.55	£17.85	£77.35	£928.20	£4 641.00		
20	£5.10	£35.70	£142.70	£1 856.40	£9 282.00		

£2 784.60 £7.65 £53.55 £232.05

£71.40

(ii)

£10.20

£15.30

(*d*) Smoking is known to increase blood pressure. State two other factors that increase blood pressure. [2]

£309.40

£464.10

(i)

£5 569.20

30

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Data Sheet

Table 1 Normal values for some physiological indicators

Indicator	Adult Male	Adult Female	
Pulse Rate	60 – 80 beats per minute	60 – 80 beats per minute	
BREATHING			
Rate	12 – 15 breaths per minute	12 – 15 breaths per minute	
Tidal volume	$400 - 500 \text{ cm}^3$	$400 - 500 \text{ cm}^3$	
Vital Capacity	4.8 dm ³	3.1 dm ³	
Peak Flow	$400 - 600 \text{ dm}^3 \text{ min}^{-1}$	$400 - 600 \text{ dm}^3 \text{ min}^{-1}$	
BLOOD PRESSURE			
20 years old	125/80 mmHg	123/80 mmHg	
40 years old	135/85 mmHg	133/85 mmHg	

Table 2 Reference ranges for some common blood tests

Test	Adult Male	Adult Female
Glucose (Fasting)	$4.5 - 6.1 \text{ mmol dm}^{-3}$	$4.5 - 6.1 \text{ mmol dm}^{-3}$
Sodium ions	$133 - 147 \text{ mmol dm}^{-3}$	$133 - 147 \text{ mmol dm}^{-3}$
Potassium ions	$3.5 - 5.0 \text{ mmol dm}^{-3}$	$3.5 - 5.0 \text{ mmol dm}^{-3}$
Calcium ions	$1.15 - 1.29 \text{ mmol dm}^{-3}$	$1.15 - 1.29 \text{ mmol dm}^{-3}$
Zinc ions	$10 - 17 \ \mu mol \ dm^{-3}$	$10 - 17 \ \mu mol \ dm^{-3}$
RED BLOOD CELLS		
Haemoglobin	$140 - 180 \text{ g dm}^{-3}$	$115 - 160 \text{ g dm}^{-3}$
Red Cell count	$4.5 - 6.5 \times 10^{12} dm^{-3}$	$3.8 - 5.8 \times 10^{12} dm^{-3}$
WHITE BLOOD CELL COUNT	$4 - 11 \times 10^9 \mathrm{dm^{-3}}$	$4 - 11 \times 10^9 \mathrm{dm^{-3}}$
PLATELET COUNT	$150 - 400 \times 10^9 \mathrm{dm^{-3}}$	$150 - 400 \times 10^9 \mathrm{dm^{-3}}$



GCE AS/A level

APPLIED SCIENCE UNIT 1

Pre-release Article for Examination in May 2013

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Information for Teachers

The pre-release article is intended as stimulus material in order to generate discussion. Questions will be set on the examination paper based on the information in the article and related aspects from the specification.

The article is based upon information found on various websites including news.scotsman.com.

No recall or terminology is required over and above that in the specification.

Students will be expected to have discussed and studied the article together with relevant specification content prior to the examination. However, they will not be expected to memorise any part of it as a copy will be provided in the examination paper.

Swine flu case study: Tragedy struck young mother only weeks after she gave birth

Among the first Scottish victims of the virus was a young mother who, according to her family, was fit and healthy before she died of swine flu just a month after giving birth to her second child. Sarah Johnston, from Clydebank, contracted the virus soon after giving birth to Leo in October last year. But within weeks of the birth on 29 November, Ms Johnston died, leaving behind the baby, her one-year-old son John and partner William Long, 27. The Scottish Government linked Ms Johnston's death to "underlying health problems" but her family insisted the only factors involved were the normal stresses of childbirth.

10 Family members said that both Ms Johnston and Leo were healthy when they were sent home to Clydebank, but the new mother complained of being unwell and developed symptoms of swine flu days later. A GP attended and ordered her to go straight to A&E at the Glasgow Royal Infirmary due to her breathing difficulties.

She was moved to the intensive care ward and treated with ventilators. She was later transferred to London's Royal Brompton Hospital for specialist treatment but died after complications, including deep vein thrombosis and bleeding on her brain. Following her sudden death, Ms Johnston's mother Mary, her brother Jim and sister Kay spoke of their devastation and urged all pregnant women to get the swine flu vaccination.

news.scotsman.com

20 What is Swine flu?

1

Swine flu is the common name given to a relatively new strain of influenza (flu) that caused a flu pandemic in 2009-2010. It is also referred to as H1N1 influenza (because it is the H1N1 strain of virus).



Fig 1 The H1N1 (Swine flu) virus as seen under the electron microscope

Current status

On 10 August 2010, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared that the H1N1 influenza pandemic was officially over. However, it is important not to ignore H1N1 flu.



Week 40 = October

30 Fig 2 The number of swine flu cases in 1999-2000, 2009-2010 and 2010-2011

1661 01A005

Table 1 Swine flu cases across Wales in 2009

Local Health Board	Rate per 100 000 w/c 13.07.09	Rate per 100 000 w/c 07.12.09
Anglesey	46.5	13.4
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Denbighshire	109.9	28.7
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Wrexham	156.3	40.2
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Ceredigion	58.8	35.8
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Blaenau Gwent	129.8	25.2
Torfaen	174.2	20.9
Monmouthshire	151.7	36.6
Newport	181.6	34.5

What to do if you have H1N1 flu

People with H1N1 flu typically have a fever or high temperature (over 38°C) and may also have aching muscles, sore throat or a dry cough. The symptoms are very similar to other types of seasonal flu. Most people recover within a week, even without special treatment. The National Pandemic Flu Service no longer operates.

Do you t	nink you have ne flu?
DO Image: Swine flu information line Image: Swine flu information line Image: Swine flu information line Image: Swine flu information line Image: Swine flu information line Image: Swine flu information line Image: Swine flu information line Image: Swine flu information line Image: Swine flu information line Image: Swine flu information Image: Swine flu information line Image: Swine flu information Image: Swine flu information Image: Swine flu inforeflu informatinfont Image: S	SWINE FLU INFORMATION 0800 1 513 513 www.direct.gov.uk/swineflu
DON'T X ☆ GP X ☆ H X ☆ A&E X ☆ A&E X ☆ ★ X	Do you have flu-like symptoms? If yes, please STOP a moment and read below. Please <u>do not</u> go into your GP surgery, A&E, walk-in centre or pharmacy if you have flu-like <u>symptoms</u> . So that the virus is not spread, firstly, please call the freephone number above; NHS Direct on 0845 4647 or your GP from home. They will give you advice on your symptoms and the next slept you should faxe. Ask your flu buddy to collect any medicine you may need.

High-risk groups

Some people are more at risk of complications if they catch flu. People are particularly vulnerable if they have:

- chronic lung disease
- chronic heart disease
- chronic kidney disease
- chronic liver disease
- chronic neurological disease (neurological disorders include motor neurone disease, multiple sclerosis and Parkinson's disease)
- immunosuppression (whether caused by disease or treatment)
- diabetes mellitus.

Also at risk are:

- patients who have had drug treatment for asthma in the past three years
- pregnant women
- people aged 65 and over.

How to stop the virus spreading

The most important way to stop flu spreading is to have good respiratory and hand hygiene. This means sneezing into a tissue and quickly putting it in a bin. Wash your hands and work surfaces regularly and thoroughly to kill the virus. Anyone who is concerned about flu symptoms should contact their GP, who will determine the most appropriate action to take.

How H1N1 flu is spread

Evidence from previous pandemics suggests that one person will infect about two others, and that flu spreads particularly rapidly in closed communities such as schools or residential homes. People are most infectious soon after they develop symptoms, although they can spread the virus for up to five days after the start of symptoms (for children this is seven days).

The H1N1 flu virus is spread in exactly the same way as ordinary cold and flu viruses. The virus is contained in the millions of tiny droplets that come out of the nose and mouth when someone coughs or sneezes. These droplets typically spread about 1 metre. They hang suspended in the air for a while, but then land on surfaces, where the virus can survive for up to 24 hours.

Anyone who touches these surfaces can spread the virus by touching anything else. Everyday items at home and in public places may have traces of the virus. These include food, door handles, remote controls, hand rails and computer keyboards. People usually become infected by picking up the virus on their hands from contaminated objects and then placing their hands near their mouth or nose. It is also possible to breathe in the virus if it is suspended in airborne droplets

70 droplets.

40

Good hygiene

Preventing the spread of the virus is the most effective way to slow the spread of diseases such as swine flu:

- Ensure everyone washes their hands regularly with soap and water.
- Clean surfaces regularly.
- Use tissues to cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze.
- Put used tissues in a bin as soon as possible.

Symptoms of H1N1 flu

If you or a member of your family has a fever or high temperature (over 38°C) and two or more of the following symptoms, you may have H1N1 flu:

- unusual tiredness
- headache
- runny nose
- sore throat
- shortness of breath or cough
- loss of appetite
- aching muscles
- diarrhoea or vomiting.



Fig 3 Symptoms of swine flu

What to do

90 If you have flu-like symptoms, stay at home, get plenty of rest and use over-the-counter painkillers to relieve symptoms. If you are concerned, contact your GP, who will determine the most appropriate action to take.

Outlook

For most people, the illness appears to be mild. For a minority of people, the virus can cause severe illness. In many of these cases, other factors contribute to the severity of the illness. When complications occur, they are usually caused by the virus affecting the lungs. Infections such as pneumonia can develop.

What happens in the lungs during swine flu?

Scientists have examined microscope slides of lung sections taken from patients who died during the swine flu pandemic. They found "a spectrum of damage in both the upper and lower respiratory tract". In all cases, the upper respiratory tract (the trachea and bronchi) were inflamed and sometimes severely damaged. In over half of the cases studied, damage was also seen lower down, in the bronchioles, and in over three-quarters of cases there was also damage to the alveoli. This damage to the lung differs from seasonal flu which can damage the trachea and bronchi, but does not cause deep lung damage.

Treating H1N1 flu

Paracetamol

As with ordinary flu, people who have H1N1 flu should get lots of rest and use standard paracetamol-based cold remedies to reduce their temperature and help relieve symptoms.

110 Some over-the-counter treatments used by adults can be given to children for the relief of the symptoms. Follow the instructions that come with each medicine. However, children under 16 **must not** be given aspirin or ready-made flu remedies containing aspirin. Always read the label or check with the pharmacist that a medicine is suitable for children.



Antivirals

The antiviral medications oseltamivir (Tamiflu) and zanamivir (Relenza) may be used to treat some people with H1N1 flu. Your GP will decide if these are necessary.

Antivirals are not a cure for H1N1 flu, but will help:

- reduce the length of time you are ill by around one day;
- relieve some of the symptoms;
- reduce the potential for serious complications such as pneumonia.

Tamiflu and Relenza are both medicines of the same type, but Relenza comes as an inhaler (rather than a pill) and is recommended for use in pregnancy.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) recommends the antiviral medicines Tamiflu and Relenza to prevent flu if **all** of the following apply:

- The amount of flu virus circulating is sufficient to mean that if someone has a flu-like illness, it is likely to have been caused by this flu virus;
- The person has a certain medical condition or is over 65;
- The person has been in contact with someone with a flu-like illness and can start treatment within 36 hours (Relenza) or within 48 hours (Tamiflu);
- The person has not been effectively protected by vaccination.

People who are not effectively protected by vaccination include:

- Those who have not been vaccinated since the previous winter;
- Those who cannot be vaccinated, or who have been vaccinated but it has not taken effect yet;
- Those who have been vaccinated for a different form of flu virus.

If there is an outbreak of seasonal flu in a residential or nursing home, Tamiflu and Relenza may be offered to people if they have been in contact with someone with confirmed flu. This is because these homes are closed places in which flu can spread quickly.

Antibiotics

140 Antibiotics are used to treat H1N1 flu patients who develop complications. They help combat bacterial infections such as pneumonia. In hospitals, antibiotics will be used to treat the most ill patients and may reduce the length of hospitalisation.

Seasonal flu jab

More recently, the H1N1 flu virus will be one of the main strains circulating, so it has been included in the seasonal flu jab. It means that the vaccine will protect you from H1N1 flu, as well as other strains.

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Vaccination is given free of charge to the following at-risk people, to protect them from flu:

- people with a serious medical condition;
- people aged 65 or over;
- pregnant women;
- people living in a residential or nursing home;
- the main carers for an elderly or disabled person whose welfare may be at risk if the carer becomes ill;
- healthcare or social care professionals directly involved in patient care;
- those who work in close contact with poultry, such as chickens.

The seasonal flu vaccine has been extended to pregnant women not in the high-risk groups. This is because there is good evidence that all pregnant women are at increased risk from complications if they catch H1N1 flu. Previously, only pregnant women in high-risk groups were offered the seasonal flu vaccine.