

My ref:
Your

Date: 13/7/09

Contact: Sarah Smart
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To Clerks of Town and Parish Councils
Cambridgeshire

Customer Service & Transformation

Cambridgeshire Emergency
Management Team
Emergency Centre
RES1403
Shire Hall
Cambridge
CB3 0AP

Dear Colleague

We are writing to you to enlist your support in helping provide volunteers to support our communities through the current global swine flu outbreak.

As you will no doubt have gathered from the media, the number of swine flu cases reported is now rising quickly. The World Health Organisation's decision to move to Phase 6 and the UK entering the 'treatment' phase confirms the scope of the pandemic.

Having entered the treatment phase, we are now mitigating the effects rather than trying to contain them. Our Health colleagues advise that the distribution of antivirals within the community is a key priority and we have made arrangements for a number of Antiviral Collections Centres to be set up – at short notice if necessary – across the County to distribute these medicines to those who need them. The antivirals would be collected from the centres by 'flu friends' – patients with swine flu would not attend the centres themselves.

We propose to open up to 16 centres, each operating for 12 hours a day and 7 days a week, in order to reach as much of the community as possible. The centres would not provide treatment. These centres may be required for several weeks. As you can imagine, this could prove to be an operation of almost military proportions and resourcing these centres will pose some real challenges.

We realise that we cannot do this alone. Your help and support will however make a significant contribution in enabling us to run these centres at the level we feel necessary for the community. We need volunteers from your organisation who would be able to work in these centres alongside our staff.

We are looking for people who are able to deal with the public, comfortable in a community setting and who have good organising skills. We have prepared comprehensive information packs and made arrangements for briefing volunteers so that they know what they will be doing and are confident in their role. Reasonable direct costs incurred eg travelling will be reimbursed.

Please give this request your urgent consideration and if you can help we would like to hear from you. You can call on 01223 718627 or email us care of Sarah.Smart@cambridgeshire.gov.uk and we will arrange for you to be contacted to discuss further details.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely



Mark Lloyd
Chief Executive
Cambridgeshire County Council



Chris Banks
Chief Executive
NHS Cambridgeshire