

What to do in the event of a pandemic

Our last emergency sheet constructed before 2019 concentrated on the possibility of an influenza pandemic arriving in the future. It was all we could find from relevant sources. As we now know, to our cost, there was no official plan for a pandemic such as Covid-19 which was not like flu and despite the warnings from some scientists and the WHO. There were no readily accessible national or local emergency plans anywhere to tackle such a rampant and dangerous virus.

Every health community in the country should have constructed a pandemic plan because the evidence was that would have a 'flu like' pandemic at some time. Despite this, back in 2019 there did not appear to be any kind of publicly accessible emergency plan dealing with the arrival of a covid-style pandemic either at Wiltshire Council/Public Health or Wiltshire NHS/Health and Care or even at Government level.

Back in 2019 the overall objectives of the UK Government approach to planning and preparing for a future 'influenza' pandemic was to minimise the potential health impacts of by supporting efforts to detect its emergence to enable early assessment of the virus by sharing information.

The first step would be to identify the strain of the virus so a vaccine can be made to protect vulnerable people, like children and the elderly. A Pandemic virus is worse than the seasonal winter flu as it is a virus that is markedly different from other strains and can spread widely because few, if any, people have immunity to it.

**Today, because of the Covid-19 pandemic we ALL know the basic steps to take!
Updated October 2021**

In the event of a widespread pandemic being declared –

- **Keep informed of the current situation by accessing appropriate media channels: TV, Radio, social media, or newspapers.**
- **Access the appropriate UK Government website(s) for the clearest details**
- **Keep informed of the local setting up of volunteer hubs in Ansty and Tisbury and be prepared to use them!**
- **Keep in contact via [our village website](#) and our own parish email circuit.**
- **Certain local businesses such as [Ansty PYO](#) may well swing into action to help with food supplies.**

If you think you have contracted 'flu-like' or recognised 'pandemic' symptoms: **Stay at home.**

- **Immediately isolate from others, follow good respiratory and hand hygiene by sanitising and maintaining good air circulation.**
- **Catch it, bin it, kill it or 'Hands, Face and Space, Fresh air'.**
- **Avoid going to your local surgery in the first instance**
- **People with pandemic symptoms would not be encouraged to visit hospitals or attend minor injury units in the first instance**
- **Keep an eye out for the UK Government website which will set out all the guidance, rules, restrictions and follow them!**
- **Avoid catching a pandemic virus by operating 'social distancing' and if advised to do so: wearing an appropriate mask**
- **You may be advised to 'lockdown', not to visit friends or relatives, and avoid travelling abroad or locally**
- **Use the latest tracking and testing procedures as advised by the Government and Public Health Authorities**
- **There may be testing procedures in force: please follow the latest advice as these procedures constantly change**
- **Ensure you get vaccinated as soon as you are called.**

People who suspect they have a 'flu or a declared pandemic virus can seek medical advice by calling 111. You may need to have your NHS number handy.

- ✓ **[Contact NHS 111](#) (tap/click)**
- ✓ **Expect to receive information similar to the 'call up' for the annual flu 'jab' call up to specific groups should vaccine doses be forthcoming.**
- ✓ **If the symptoms are causing concern, or people are in an at-risk group such as those with a chronic condition like heart or lung disease, or other 'underlying health problems'; children under 5 or pregnant women, they should phone their local GP or [NHS Direct](#) as they may be a priority for early treatment.**

