

# Yooralla Pandemic Plan E-Newsletter

Seventh Edition—19 June 2009

## Yooralla's Pandemic Plan has moved back to Level 2

After consultation with the nominated senior managers responsible for the implementation of Yooralla's Pandemic Plan, and in light of the federal government decision to move to a new 'protect' phase (see below), Yooralla will be moving back to **Level 2**.

This means we will:

- Continue to implement measures to minimize the risk of infection across all services using standard infection control measures
- Stocks of Personal Protective Equipment will be maintained and available where necessary
- Yooralla management have identified services where people are at a **higher risk** from influenza viruses, and will continue to implement strategies to minimize risk, including **service closure or social isolation**
- **Residential services** are asked to keep pantries stocked with non-perishable foods in case the status of the pandemic changes
- The **Pandemic Plan** update link will be maintained on the Yooralla website and intranet
- The **website** will be updated at least **weekly**, or more often if needed
- The **E-Newsletter** will be issued weekly, or more often if needed. The newsletter will be distributed on Wednesdays

## All Australian States and Territories have moved to a new 'protect' phase

From Thursday 18 June 2009, all Australian States and Territories have entered a newly created 'protect' phase. Key elements of this phase, which is similar to the previous Victorian phase, are:

- A focus on the early treatment of those identified as displaying severe and moderate symptoms and people who are considered to be of a higher risk of complications due to the influenza virus. These include those with respiratory conditions like asthma, the morbidly obese and pregnant women
- Voluntary home isolation for those who are ill
- Antiviral drugs, such as Tamiflu, will not be prescribed for otherwise healthy people with mild symptoms
- People who come into contact with people who have human swine flu will not be quarantined
- Thermal scanners will be no longer used at airports
- Schools will no longer be closed

## Yooralla's Pandemic Operational Hotline *no longer* in operation

**Due to the change in Yooralla's Pandemic Plan level, the 24 hour help desk at Carnegie will be discontinued from today—19 June 2009**

**Staff should continue to direct queries to service managers. Queries can also be directed to the Pandemic Manager (details below) if the service manager is unavailable**

### Important Phone Numbers

**Swine Influenza Hotline (Victorian Government)**

- 180 2007

**Nurse On-Call**

- 1300 606 024

**Useful websites**

[www.humanswineflu.health.vic.gov.au](http://www.humanswineflu.health.vic.gov.au)

[www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au](http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au)

[www.healthemergency.gov.au](http://www.healthemergency.gov.au)

[www.smarttraveller.gov.au](http://www.smarttraveller.gov.au)

**World Health Organization—** [www.who.int](http://www.who.int)

**Feedback to Pandemic Manager Jenny Boulton:**

**Email:** [jennifer.boulton@yooralla.com.au](mailto:jennifer.boulton@yooralla.com.au)

**Phone:** 8574 4700

### Yooralla Service Information

- The **Belmore School Therapy** service will reopen today
- Services will **no longer be closed, or socially isolated**, if a staff member or client is displaying flu-like symptoms (or been in contact with someone with Human Swine Flu), **except services where clients have a high vulnerability to the virus**. This will be determined by the service and Pandemic Managers

**Staff are reminded, that as with all influenza viruses, if you are displaying flu-like symptoms, you should not come to work and seek medical advice as soon as possible**

