

Swine flu latest from the NHS

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A 73-year-old man has become the second person with swine flu to die in the UK. He had serious underlying health conditions, and had been in a Scottish intensive care unit for 15 days. There have been over 4,000 confirmed cases in the UK so far, and only a very small minority have been severe.

In other news, the Secretary of State Andy Burnham has announced that a flexible approach will be used to manage swine flu hotspots. The decision means the worst affected areas will move to a phase of 'outbreak management' based on the local situation, while the rest of the country will continue to act to contain the virus.

“A containment strategy remains in place, although we are allowing more flexibility in areas where more community transmission has taken place”, the minister confirmed.

It has also been announced that over 60m doses of swine flu vaccine have been secured by the Department of Health - enough doses to treat the whole population. According to Sir Liam Donaldson, the Chief Medical Officer, the first doses could be available as soon as late August