

18 December 2006

Richmond House
79 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2NS

Dear Colleague

The importance of Hand Hygiene

I am pleased to enclose sample copies of *Wet, Soap, Wash, Rinse, Dry*, a hand washing poster for your use. It is the first in a range of general hygiene communications, which forms an important part of our pre-pandemic influenza preparedness planning.

Good hygiene practice will have a major role to play in slowing the spread of pandemic influenza and we hope that by getting staff and the public into good habits now, we will be well-prepared to respond when a pandemic arrives. In the meantime, it should have a positive impact on the spread of seasonal influenza and other diseases.

The enclosed posters are being sent to a variety of NHS workplaces including: GP surgeries, health centres, pharmacies, health promotion units, health protection units, A& E departments and NHS walk in centres.

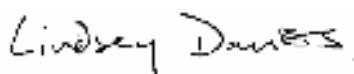
Electronic versions are being mailed out through the Chief Executive's and GP Bulletins and are being made available through NHS Comms link. Also, the Regional Public Health Group communication leads will cascade to colleagues.

We would be grateful if you would display the enclosed in a prominent position, so as to prompt the public about improving their hand hygiene practices for general health reasons. The poster is equally relevant to staff.

To order additional free copies please contact:
DH Publications Orderline – tel: **08701 555 455** or email: **dh@prolog.uk.com**

Thank you for your help and support.

Yours sincerely,



Prof Lindsey Davies
National Director of Pandemic Influenza Preparedness

More information on pandemic flu is available at:
www.dh.gov.uk/pandemicflu