

From the Chief Medical Officer  
**Professor Sir Michael McBride**



**HSS(MD) 23/2026**

**FOR ACTION**

Chief Executives, Public Health Agency/HSC  
Trusts/NIAS  
Chief Operating Officer, SPPG  
GP Medical Advisers, SPPG  
All General Practitioners and GP Locums (*for  
onward distribution to practice staff*)  
OOH Medical Managers (*for onward distribution to  
staff*)

Castle Buildings  
Stormont Estate  
Belfast BT4 3SQ  
Tel: 028 90 520653  
Email: [cmooffice@health-ni.gov.uk](mailto:cmooffice@health-ni.gov.uk)

Your Ref:  
Our Ref: HSS(MD) 23/2026  
Date: 22 June 2026

Dear Colleague

**HANTAVIRUS BECOMES A NOTIFIABLE DISEASE IN NORTHERN IRELAND**

***Action required***

Chief Executives must ensure that this information is drawn to the attention of all clinical staff to enable them to respond accordingly.

The SSPG must ensure that this information is cascaded to all General Practitioners and OOH facilities immediately.

1. The Public Health Act (Northern Ireland) 1967 has been amended to make Hantavirus (including hantavirus pulmonary or cardio-pulmonary syndrome and haemorrhagic fever with renal syndrome) a notifiable disease. The changes come into effect on 20 June 2026.
2. The Department has made The Public Health (Notifiable Diseases - Hantavirus Diseases) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026 under powers conferred by section 1(2) of the Public Health Act (Northern Ireland) 1967. The Statutory Rule is subject to negative resolution procedure before the Assembly.
3. The Statutory Rule will mean that medical practitioners are required to share patient information with the Public Health Agency if they become aware, or have reasonable grounds for suspecting, that a person they are attending has Hantavirus.

4. The Director of Public Health and the Public Health Agency have a range of powers available in relation to notifiable diseases by virtue of the provisions of the [Public Health Act \(Northern Ireland\) 1967](#).

Yours sincerely



**Prof Sir Michael McBride**  
**Chief Medical Officer**

### **Circulation List**

Director of Public Health/Medical Director, Public Health Agency (*for onward distribution to all relevant health protection staff*)  
Assistant Director Public Health (Health Protection), Public Health Agency  
Director of Nursing, Public Health Agency  
Assistant Director of Pharmacy and Medicines Management, SPPG (*for onward distribution to SPPG Pharmacy and Medicines Management Team and community pharmacists*)  
Directors of Pharmacy HSC Trusts  
Director of Social Care and Children, SPPG  
Family Practitioner Service Leads, SPPG (*for cascade to GP Out of Hours services*)  
Medical Directors, HSC Trusts (*for onward distribution to all Consultants, Occupational Health Physicians and School Medical Leads*)  
Nursing Directors, HSC Trusts (*for onward distribution to all Community Nurses, and Midwives*)  
Directors of Children's Services, HSC Trusts  
RQIA (*for onward transmission to all independent providers including independent hospitals*)  
Regional Medicines Information Service, Belfast HSC Trust  
Regional Pharmaceutical Procurement Service, Northern HSC Trust  
Professor Kenda Crozier, Head of School of Nursing and Midwifery QUB  
Andrea Shepherd, Head of School of Nursing, Ulster University  
Heather Finlay, Head of HSC Clinical Education Centre  
Stephanie Foster, Open University  
Professor Paul McCarron, Head of School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Ulster University  
Professor Gavin Andrews, Head of School, School of Pharmacy, QUB  
Postgraduate Pharmacy Dean, NI Centre for Pharmacy Learning and Development, QUB  
Michael Donaldson, Head of Dental Services, SPPG (*for distribution to all General Dental Practitioners*)  
Raymond Curran, Head of Ophthalmic Services, SPPG (*for distribution to Community Optometrists*)  
Trade Union Side  
Clinical Advisory Team  
Louise McMahan, Director of Integrated Care, SPPG  
Dr Camille Harron, NIMDTA

