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**PRESS RELEASE**

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The Government's Civil Contingency Committee met to-day to discuss Swine Flu, following the World Health Organisation's decision to raise its Pandemic Status to Phase 5.

The Civil Contingency Committee has a Gibraltar specific response plan to deal with Pandemics. This plan has now been invoked. The Gibraltar Health Authority has taken all steps required by the Plan.

The GHA has sufficient (28,000 treatment courses) stock of Tamiflu, which is currently the effective treatment.

The Civil Contingency Committee has decided to establish a telephone hotline for use by people who have been to the places officially designated as affected, namely Mexico, California, Texas and New York or have been in contact with someone who has, and have flu like symptoms. It is important that such persons stay at home, use the telephone hotline and do not visit their doctor, the Health Centre or the hospital, in order to avoid spreading any virus that they may have. The GHA will, in response to such a phone call, dispatch a doctor or nurse to the caller's home. The GHA will provide details of the hotline tomorrow (Friday).

In addition, the Civil Contingency Committee will issue a leaflet next week which will be delivered to every home, and posted on the Government and GHA websites.

There is, at present, no cause for alarm. These are simply precautionary measures. The Civil Contingency Committee will continue to meet regularly to keep developments in this matter under constant review.

