Early estimation of pandemic influenza Antiviral and Vaccine Effectiveness (EAVE): use of a unique community and laboratory national data-linked cohort study

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Plain English summary

The EAVE study

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Plain English summary

During the 20th and 21st centuries, there have been four pandemics of influenza (influenza that has spread throughout populations across the world: 1918–19, 1957–8, 1968–9, 2009–10) producing very large numbers of cases and a large numbers of deaths (with an estimated 20–40 million, 1 million, 1 million and 0.25 million deaths, respectively). This was owing to the population being especially affected by the new influenza viruses involved. After the introduction of any new pandemic influenza, as well as front-line health-care workers and carers, it is important that we target vaccination at those who are likely to be at increased risk of serious illness or death, for example (1) those with any underlying medical conditions (e.g. chronic heart or lung disease); (2) those who were not exposed to previous pandemic influenza or vaccinations; and (3) those who might be in novel risk groups that may make them uniquely at risk to a new pandemic of influenza. It is also important to know how pandemic influenza is spreading through our population (so that we can target vaccines or medications at particular areas of the country). We therefore set out to create a pandemic influenza reporting platform, which will use data linked from electronic health records and also stored bodily fluid called 'serum'. We have created this platform to provide us with timely and important information on any groups of people who are particularly susceptible to the new pandemic influenza, how the influenza is spreading in our population and whether or not any available vaccine or medication is working.

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This report

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