

Evening News

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## Drug flies off shelves as bird flu gets public in a flap

ROCHE, the maker of a key bird flu drug, has reported that sales of the treatment had more than doubled as countries stocked up ahead of a possible pandemic.

Swiss firm Roche said sales of Tamiflu - which is seen as the best treatment for bird flu - soared to £122 million in its third quarter. A number of countries - including Britain - have been stockpiling the antiviral drug, helping Roche report a 17 per cent hike in revenues in the three months to the end of September.

The firm, which employs 1800 of its 65,000 staff in the UK, produces more than 100 million capsules of Tamiflu a year and has already expanded its production capacity several times.

It has confirmed that it would take action to further boost production.

### Web links

- [Dept of Health - pandemic flu](http://www.dh.gov.uk/PolicyAndGuidance/EmergencyPlanning/PandemicFlu/fs/en)  
<http://www.dh.gov.uk/PolicyAndGuidance/EmergencyPlanning/PandemicFlu/fs/en>
- [WHO - Bird Flu fact sheet](http://www.who.int/csr/don/2004_01_15/en/)  
[http://www.who.int/csr/don/2004\\_01\\_15/en/](http://www.who.int/csr/don/2004_01_15/en/)

### Related topic

- [Bird flu](http://news.scotsman.com/topics.cfm?tid=161)  
<http://news.scotsman.com/topics.cfm?tid=161>

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