



Glen Abbot Ltd.

Swine Flu Briefing 36 – 02/10/2009

Author: David Hutcheson MBCI, Managing Director of Glen Abbot Ltd.
David.hutcheson@glenabbot.co.uk

Current Situation:

First and most importantly there is no evidence of the virus mutating. Here is the latest quote from the WHO:

All pandemic H1N1 2009 influenza viruses analyzed to date have been antigenically and genetically similar to A/California/7/2009-like pandemic H1N1 2009 virus.

In the UK the number of cases has again risen sharply in statistical terms although the overall level remains low.

In England the numbers have risen from 9,000 last week to 14,000 this week. The area of the UK seeing by far the largest rise is Northern Ireland (since schools went back). Scotland has reported a significant rise from last week but there appears to be new recording methods here which may well explain this sudden rise. Consultation rates remain highest in the 0-4 year age group.

Health Protection Scotland has issued the following in their weekly report:

The estimated number of new Influenza A H1N1v cases this week who consulted their GP was 4850. Since not all people consult their GP, we estimate that the total number of people in Scotland who have contracted H1N1v over the last week is 13,800. These have doubled from last week as a result of the doubling in the lab positivity.

In the USA, levels of ILI (influenza like illness) have continued to increase and remain above the seasonal baseline for the past 4 weeks in most regions.

In Australia cases have been seen to decline substantially.

I was working in Germany this week and it was interesting to see that a pandemic does not rate highly in governmental or business consciousness. Indeed German states will not order further swine flu vaccinations drug maker Novartis as they had originally planned.

I would be interested in how other countries are seeing the threat as winter approaches. I know there are subscribers to this briefing in quite a number of countries so any information would be very useful.

While Australia is coming to the end of its regular flu season, their chief medical officer has said that the virus was unpredictable, and could emerge throughout the summer with a possible second outbreak before the next flu season.

I picked this up on Reuters about American attitudes to the vaccine:

Nearly two-thirds of U.S. parents say they will hold off having their children vaccinated against the H1N1 swine flu or will not get them immunized at all.

It found that 50 percent of parents are delaying the vaccination decision, mainly because they were wary about whether the new H1N1 vaccine has been tested enough.

The same concerns were shared by 14 percent of parents who have ruled out vaccination altogether.

So just how do you audit a plan?

One of the areas I covered this week on the BCI webinar I did was how to audit a plan. I thought I would summarise it just in case one day Glen Abbot has to look at yours!

Here is a list of the key factors we look at. All of these should be covered, although the depth of that coverage depends on the organisation:

- Introduction
- Policy and Strategy (remember people are always the first priority!)
- Notification, Invocation, Communication and Escalation Procedures
- Roles and Responsibilities
- Critical Business Activities (the key to planning and must be of sufficient detail and preferably signed off)
- Task Checklist, especially for the first few weeks
- Contacts (Internal and External) and communications
- Supply chain
- Maintenance and testing procedures
- Return to Business as Usual
- Guidance on flu from H & S point.

Of course these are only the headings and there is a lot of detail we examine below these, but it might be a useful checklist to examine your plans with!

The full webinar should be available to download from the BCI soon.

Past Briefings

All previous briefings are available at our website:

www.glenabbot.co.uk

Training and Consultancy

We provide specific pandemic training courses both publicly and bespoke to companies. If you are interested please contact me directly or email Geoff Howard at Continuity Shop (ghoward@continuityshop.com).

We can also help organisation review or create plans so if you need any assistance please contact me via this email or Andrew Sinclair on Andrew.sinclair@glenabbot.co.uk. Our office number is 01738 580580.

Yours sincerely



David Hutcheson
Managing Director

M: 07775 793858 T: 01738 580580 E: david.hutcheson@glenabbot.co.uk

Glen Abbot Ltd

Quayside House
Friarton Road, Perth PH2 8BB
Telephone: 08450 531537
Email: enquiries@glenabbot.co.uk
Website: www.glenabbot.co.uk

Company Registration No. 3569363 VAT No. 699 8562 44