



Glen Abbot Ltd.

Swine Flu Briefing 17 – 01/06/2009

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

Current Situation:

53 countries have officially reported 15,510 cases of influenza A(H1N1) infection, including 99 deaths.

The countries with large numbers of cases are:

- Argentina 37
- Australia 147
- Canada 1118
- Chile 165
- China 30
- Colombia 17
- Costa Rica 33
- Ecuador 32
- France 21
- Germany 19
- Italy 26
- Japan 364
- Korea 33
- Kuwait 18
- Mexico 4910
- Panama 107
- Peru 31
- Spain 143
- UK 203
- USA 7927

There have been 99 deaths: Canada 2, Costa Rica 1, Mexico 85, USA 11.

Scientists have used bird flu virus samples from Egypt to develop a new basis for a vaccine against the toxic H5N1 strain that continues to circulate, the World Health Organization said on Thursday.

Avian influenza has killed 261 people out of 424 infected since 2003.

Pharmaceutical companies are already working on vaccines against H5N1 bird flu, which has killed or forced the culling of more than 300 million birds since 2003 as it spread to 61 countries in Asia, the Middle East and Africa.



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

Australian cruise ship the Pacific Dawn with 2,000 people on board has docked at Brisbane and Sydney to unload passengers after cases of swine flu were discovered amongst the crew. This is the second time that this ship has been reported with swine flu.

"We are very confident there is no evidence of human swine influenza on the ship apart from the crew, who were isolated on day one of the cruise," said Dr Kerry Chant, the chief medical officer of New South Wales.

Wales has confirmed its first cases of swine flu, in the Caerphilly area. The patient is a 31 year old man and health officials say that the case is linked to recent travels to the USA.

Going to work on an egg....

I often mention the need for eggs in the production of a vaccine and for those of you who think I may be perhaps losing the plot a little I quote this from the BBC website which confirms the important place eggs have. In the early days of H5N1 there was even a fear that the mass culling of chickens would increase the threat as eggs would be in short supply...

British scientists have begun work on a vaccine against the H1N1 swine flu virus. Their efforts are under way at the National Institute for Biological Standards and Control (NIBSC) in Hertfordshire.

The NIBSC is one of a small group of influenza centres around the world which will create a seed vaccine strain which could then be grown in bulk by manufacturers. Its scientists need a steady hand to drill a hole in a hen's egg. For that is the first step in the creation of a vaccine against the swine flu virus. Scientists at NIBSC, which is part of the Health Protection Agency, say eggs are ideal for growing up flu viruses.

"They are like virus production factories," its principal scientist Dr John Wood explained. "Eggs have been used for decades to make flu vaccines. It's an old technology but it works very well."

Future Briefings

Given that changes are now happening slowly I will issue briefings weekly on a Monday from now on unless there are significant changes. All 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

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