



Glen Abbot Ltd.

Swine Flu Briefing 05 – 01/05/2009

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Current Situation:

Mexico: 168 suspected deaths - 12 confirmed

US: one death, at least 109 confirmed cases

New Zealand: 3 confirmed, 13 probable cases

Canada: 19 confirmed cases

UK: 8 confirmed cases

Spain: 10 confirmed cases

Germany: 3 confirmed cases

Israel, Costa Rica: 2 confirmed cases each

The Netherland, Switzerland, Austria: 1 confirmed case each

The spread of H1N1 does not appear to be increasing, indeed at this stage there appears to be a decline.

There are reports being given (as of 05:30 UK time) that a friend of the Falkirk couple who were the first to be diagnosed has shown signs and would therefore be the first person in the UK to have caught the disease without having visited Mexico.

The following statement has been given out by Nicola Sturgeon the Secretary for Health in Scotland:

"Obviously the circumstances around this individual do give us cause for concern - the symptoms don't give us cause for concern, but the circumstances give us cause for concern."

Mexico is preparing for a five-day shutdown of parts of its economy in a bid to slow the spread of swine flu.

Non-essential government services will be suspended, while businesses such as cinemas and restaurants will be closed.

Is the Pandemic Due?

Although the WHO have moved to Phase 5 there seems to be some doubt (certainly for the UK) whether a full scale pandemic is close. The following comment from Professor Ferguson, made on the BBC's Today programme, appears to be gathering considerable support in suggesting that the outbreak may start to die down over the next few weeks and re-appear in the autumn.

Clearly we are on track for a pandemic in the coming months.

The good news is that we were all worried about so-called bird flu H5N1 which was a much more dangerous virus. Here, we are not in the same ball park. But we can't at the moment answer the question is it comparable to 1918 Spanish flu which killed a lot of people - or is it much more like Hong Kong flu. We are coming out of the normal time of year when we have flu circulating in the UK so we don't really know what size of epidemic there may be in the next couple of months.

It is almost certain that even if it does fade away in the next few weeks which it might we will get a sizable epidemic in the autumn.

We might expect up to 30-40% of the population to become ill in the next six months if this truly turns into a pandemic.

We could get substantial numbers infected in the next few weeks. If I was to be a betting man I would say it would be a slightly longer period of time just because we are heading into the summer months.

UK Alert Levels

Those of you have been on my more recent courses will have heard of the UK's own pandemic levels. These are given below. It is not clear whether these are being used as there is no government comment on them. Perhaps this is because it could be argued that we are at least at UK alert level 3 although we are not yet at WHO Phase 6! In any case it is worthwhile being aware that these may also be used at some point.

When the international situation reaches WHO Phase 6 there will be 4 alert levels in the UK:

- *UK alert level 1 No cases in the UK*
- *UK alert level 2 Virus isolated in the UK*
- *UK alert level 3 Outbreak (s) in the UK*
- *UK alert level 4 Widespread activity across the UK*

Future Briefings

From later today all briefings will be available at our website:

www.glenabbot.co.uk

I get a considerable amount of feedback and questions from these briefings and am happy to get them! Hopefully over the next few days I will be able to make this a more interactive process so that you can interact with me and each other.

I head to China today to speak at the BCI conference so the briefings will continue but given the time difference may appear at a different time.

If you would like to contact me by phone my mobile number in China is 0086 15821109366. Use www.telediscount.com to phone that number at a penny a minute.

Training

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



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