



Glen Abbot Ltd.

Swine Flu Briefing 19 – 11/06/2009

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Current Situation:

There will be an emergency meeting of the WHO at 1000 GMT today to discuss whether they will move to Phase 6.

WHO Director-General Margaret Chan will lead the meeting. "She is looking for some detailed epidemiological explanation for what is going on," WHO spokesman Dick Thompson told Reuters. "She is making her own assessment based on information gathered today."

Phase 6 is defined as:

***Phase 6**, the pandemic phase, is characterized by community level outbreaks in at least one other country in a different WHO region in addition to the criteria defined in **Phase 5**. Designation of this phase will indicate that a global pandemic is under way.*

Will it make any difference? Well no, it will make little difference to the handling of the outbreak, it is merely a classification move which allows change to things such as extra concentration on finding suitable vaccine.

What should organisations do at Phase 6

Well in the first instance the best advice is 'don't panic'. If you have a plan in place then you should simply be ready to implement it as the situation develops. If you do not have a plan then you should act very quickly to create one.

At the moment, unless you are in an area which is severely hit by the outbreak, the best thing to do is:

- appoint someone to monitor progress by looking at government advice
- hold regular (perhaps weekly at this stage) meetings of your pandemic management team. Form one if you don't have one already!
- Monitor the level of sickness in your country, area and organisation
- Review the key actions you will implement and ensure they are read to go. For example if you plan to implement a policy of working from home then I suggest you send some folk home to test that the technology works.
- If you don't have a plan then create one.

Future Briefings

Given that changes are now happening I will issue briefings in line with the spread. Weekly is probably still suitable at this stage but I will increase if necessary

It is very likely that we will move to phase 6 today or this week and I will follow up on that.

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



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