



# **Glen Abbot Ltd.**

## **Swine Flu Briefing 38 – 18/10/2009**

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### **Current Situation:**

There was an estimate of 27,000 new cases in England last week compared with 18,000 last week. This indicates a doubling every two weeks. In Scotland the figure was 12,500. Northern Ireland showed a 59% increase.

The other key points include:

- An increase was seen in most age groups except those over 65 years.
- The main burden of flu-like illness nationally is in the 5-14 and 15-24 years age groups.
- This week, the antiviral collection numbers in the National Pandemic Flu Service have continued to increase and this has been seen in all age groups except the over 65s. The largest increase (17%) in week 41 was seen in the 5-14 year olds.

Since the start of the pandemic there have been 399232 laboratory confirmed cases of pandemic influenza H1N1 2009 and over 4735 deaths reported to the WHO

In North America, the United States is now experiencing nationwide rates of Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) well above seasonal baseline rates with high rates of pandemic H1N1 2009 virus detections in clinical laboratory specimens. Canada is reporting increases in ILI rates for the third straight week with some provinces now crossing the baseline. Mexico also reports high intensity and active transmission in some areas of the country.

### **Seasonal Greetings?**

I am often asked whether the pandemic will mean that we don't have seasonal flu this year; well sadly that is not the case. Both can and do exist as we can see from China where nearly half of the influenza viruses detected are seasonal influenza A (H3N2) viruses, which appeared prior to and is co-circulating with pandemic H1N1 2009 virus.

### **Vaccines**

The vaccination programme in the UK will start next week for critical groups.



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The UK Government has gone for the GSK vaccine Pandemrix, largely it seems because of supply difficulties with the other main option.

Sir Liam Donaldson has again urged at risk groups, including pregnant women, to get immunised:

*"I don't want to see anyone dying of an illness that can be prevented by vaccination. Only this week we have seen two deaths among pregnant women: one in Scotland and another in Wales."*

The head of immunisation at the Department of Health, Professor David Salisbury, said those over 10 years of age would need just one dose of Pandemrix vaccine, because clinical trials had shown that it was sufficient to offer good immunity. Those under 10 will need two jabs, spaced three weeks apart, because their immune systems do not respond as well.

In the USA delivery of some swine flu vaccines has been delayed because companies cannot make it as fast as they had hoped, just as the virus has really started to spread, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said on Friday.

The CDC's Dr. Anne Schuchat said that while 40 million doses had been anticipated for the end of October, only about 28 to 30 million doses would be available.

### **Severe for some**

While H1N1 continues to be a mild strain (and there is no evidence of a change or mutation) there is some concern world wide about those who do suffer a severe reaction. Patients generally begin to deteriorate around 3 to 5 days after symptom onset. Deterioration is rapid, with many patients progressing to respiratory failure within 24 hours, requiring immediate admission to an intensive care unit.

On the positive side, findings presented to a WHO Meeting show a growing body of evidence that prompt treatment with the antiviral drugs, oseltamivir or zanamivir, reduces the severity of illness and improves the chances of survival.

### **Chatter and conspiracy.....**

Those of you who have been reading these briefings since the start will know that I get annoyed at some of the complete rubbish that is posted on the internet as 'fact'. In the last week there has been a massive increase in chatter about the vaccines, their safety, the need for them, who makes money from them and the like.

Here are some examples, I include them not because I believe or support what they say, but so that if you get someone raising them with you, then you are at least forewarned!

*An unpublished Canadian study that suggests seasonal flu shots raise a person's risk of catching swine flu is raising concern.*

*The data, referred to as "the Canadian problem" by some scientists, are reported to link getting a flu shot last year with double the risk of contracting swine flu this year.*

There is a long article on this and there does appear to be at least credibility in further research. If you would like to read the whole story here is a link:

<http://680news.com/news/national/more.jsp?content=n243967226>

It used to be bankers, now the vaccine makers are exploiting us.....!

<http://www.globalresearch.ca/index.php?context=va&aid=15585>

And the true internet conspiracy theorists are alive and well (although I'm not sure that is a safe description!). Of course there is no flu, it is all a plot.....

*The H1N1 vaccination propaganda machine is going full-tilt, and the timetable for rapid population reduction is upon us. This is sooooo obvious, people! They are telling us what is going to happen before it happens, because they are going to cause it. They know people will drop dead after the shot, and are putting out the pre-op denial propaganda so that people will think, 'hey, they warned us of this, and it is nothing to worry about.'*

<http://farmwars.info/?p=1711>

### **What is in a vaccine?**

It may be chatter, but as ever in there is something that has a small basis in truth. GSK's Pandemrix has an adjuvant, or booster chemical, which is designed to boost the body's immune response. The key ingredient is called squalene.

The WHO have published information on this and here is part of it. The full article can be found at:

[http://www.who.int/vaccine\\_safety/topics/adjuvants/squalene/questions\\_and\\_answers/en/](http://www.who.int/vaccine_safety/topics/adjuvants/squalene/questions_and_answers/en/)

Here is an extract:

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What is squalene?

- *Squalene is a naturally occurring substance found in plants, animals, and humans. It is manufactured in the liver of every human body and circulates in our bloodstream.*
- *Squalene is also found in a variety of foods, cosmetics, over-the-counter medications, and health supplements.*
- *Squalene is commercially extracted from fish oil, and in particular shark liver oil. Squalene used in pharmaceutical products and vaccines is purified from this source.*

Is there squalene in vaccines?

- *Since 1997, an influenza vaccine (FLUAD, Chiron) which contains about 10 mg of squalene per dose, has been approved in health agencies in several European countries. Squalene is present in the form of an emulsion and is added to make the vaccine more immunogenic.*
- *Squalene is being added to improve the efficacy of several experimental vaccines including pandemic flu and malaria vaccines which are being developed.*

Why is squalene added to vaccines?

- *Squalene is a component of some adjuvants that are added to vaccines to enhance the immune response.*
- *MF59, an adjuvant produced by Novartis and added to the FLUAD flu vaccine, is such an example.*
- *Squalene by itself is not an adjuvant, but emulsions of squalene with surfactants do enhance the immune response*

### **Past Briefings**

All previous briefings are available at our website: [www.glenabbot.co.uk](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:Andrew.sinclair@glenabbot.co.uk). Our office number is 01738 580580.



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