

Glen Abbot Ltd.

Swine Flu Briefing 21 – 21/06/2009

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Current Situation:

The UK now has over 2,300 cases and world wide the figure sits at over 45,000. Fatalities sit at around 180, although in the vast majority of cases the person had some underlying illness.

It interesting though that the media have now virtually dropped the story. For those of us trying to help prepare plans the focus is moving away already and the task gets harder.

Will there be a mutation of the virus?

Many of us, as I have said a number of times in these briefings, believe there will be new variant spreading this winter. This may well come out from the Southern hemisphere as it heads in to winter there.

I have picked this us from the Dominion Post in New Zealand:

'Fears are growing that swine flu which has killed 180 people worldwide will become resistant to antiviral drugs after confirmation that winter flu strains here are no longer susceptible to the antiviral drug Tamiflu.'

Why does a vaccine take so long?

Quite a few of you have asked why a vaccine takes six months to develop so I though I would set out the stages which make up that timescale as I understand them:

- *Stage 1 – Identify the virus - can be as quickly as 24 hours*
- *Stage 2 - Development of Primary Seed (the base material for the development of a vaccine) – some 4 weeks*
- *Stage 3 – Development and Production – some 12 weeks*
- *Stage 4 – Testing – some 6 weeks*
- *Stage 5 – Review and Authorisation - 1 week*

To work or not to work?

Just how much of a risk is it if sick people come to work? There is always the risk that the workplace heroes will stagger in until they are stopped.

I picked this up from an American source:

"We're beginning to see a pattern of healthcare personnel-to-healthcare personnel transmission in some of the clusters, which is also concerning, because it gets to the issue of people showing up to work sick,"

It is understandable that health care workers go that extra mile, but it does highlight that organisations should be prepared to enforce strict policies of telling staff to stay away if there is the possibility they have the virus.

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. 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 (goward@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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