

Glen Abbot Ltd.

Swine Flu Briefing 15 – 21/05/2009

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Current Situation:

There are currently 10,243 cases reported world-wide in 41 countries. The largest numbers are:

- Canada 496
- Colombia 12
- France 15
- Germany 14
- Japan 210
- Mexico 3648
- Panama 65
- Spain 107
- UK 102
- USA 5469

The most concerning is Japan which is seeing a very fast spread and is considered by the WHO as a potential source of the start of a true pandemic and is being monitored 'very closely.' More than 4,000 schools have shut in Japan (over 7.5%). One Japanese agency puts the actual number of cases at 234 up from just 4 two weeks ago.

90 percent of the infections occurred in teenagers, with nine cases in their 20s, five in their 30s, seven in their 40s, three in their 50s, and one aged above 60, the Japanese health ministry said.

Thomas Cook and Thomson's have announced that flights will be going to Cancun from Glasgow Airport with effect from 25th and 26 May respectively.

What is the benefit of current vaccines?

There has always been a view that the annual flu jab may give a degree of immunity. This quote comes from a new document from the WHO on vaccine production and suggests there is no benefit:

Currently available data indicate that sera of individuals vaccinated with 07/08 or 08/09 seasonal influenza vaccines do not neutralize the currently circulating influenza A (H1N1) virus. This observation also holds true for sera of individuals vaccinated with adjuvanted seasonal vaccines. This indicates that immunization with recent or shortly to be available trivalent seasonal vaccine is unlikely to provide public health benefits in terms of protection against influenza A (H1N1).

Will we switch the vaccine production and will there be mass vaccinations?

Again this is a question I have been asked regularly in the last week. My source is once again the WHO:

The Working Group stressed the fact that clear communications are needed from WHO that declaration of Phase 6 does not automatically mean that WHO is recommending that manufacturers should switch from seasonal to influenza A (H1N1) vaccine production. Likewise, it is important to be clear that a potential recommendation to start production is not considered as a recommendation to start immunizing large population groups.

Future Briefings

Given that changes are now happening slowly I will issue briefings on Monday and Thursday 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 (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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