



Glen Abbot Ltd.

Swine Flu Briefing 16 – 26/05/2009

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Current Situation:

46 countries have officially reported 12 515 cases of influenza A(H1N1) infection, including 91 deaths.

The countries with large numbers of cases are:

- Australia 16
- Canada 805
- Chile 44
- China 15
- Colombia 13
- Costa Rica 28
- France 16
- Germany 17
- Italy 19
- Japan 345
- Kuwait 18
- Mexico 4174
- Panama 76
- Peru 25
- Spain 133
- UK 122
- USA 6552

There have been 91 deaths: Canada 1, Costa Rica 1, Mexico 80, USA 9.

According to the WHO the majority of deaths have occurred in persons below 60 years of age. In seasonal influenza, the overwhelming majority of severe morbidity and mortality occur in persons of 65 years of age or more. However, with new influenza A (H1N1), a substantial proportion of the cases of severe illness and death has occurred among young and previously healthy adults.

To date, most infections of new influenza A (H1N1) have occurred in the northern hemisphere. There is concern that the spread of the virus to the southern hemisphere could have different and perhaps more severe effects than seen in the northern hemisphere, particularly since the populations in the southern hemisphere are generally more vulnerable. These groups are younger and often live in crowded urban settings.

Legal Implications

Quite a number of you have raised concerns about the legal implications of how staff are treated during a pandemic.

I have gathered the following from an American source. I know the legal systems in each country would be different, but I think the principle of what is said may well apply.

Employees facing an outbreak of swine flu may be able to successfully argue that coming to work and exposing themselves to the potentially lethal virus is against Government advice.

While the swine flu moves through the population, it is likely that both federal and state health agencies will advise that congregating in public is unsafe. Under these circumstances, employees terminated for refusing to come to work and exposing themselves and their families to contagion or employees who refuse to come to work for fear of spreading the swine flu to others, including co-workers are likely to have a claim for wrongful termination.

Future Briefings

Given that changes are now happening slowly I will issue briefings weekly on a Monday 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 (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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