



Glen Abbot Ltd.

Swine Flu Briefing 22 – 28/06/2009

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Current Situation:

The containment strategy in England is being relaxed Secretary of State Andy Burnham has announced. The decision means the worst affected areas will move to a phase of 'outbreak management' based on the local situation, while the rest of the country will continue to act to contain the virus.

"A containment strategy remains in place, although we are allowing more flexibility in areas where more community transmission has taken place",

- The number of confirmed cases of swine flu in the UK has passed 4,200.
- Over 60,000 cases have been recorded in over 100 countries. Although the majority have not been severe, more than 260 people have died from the virus.

It has also been announced over 60 million doses of swine flu vaccine have been secured by the Department of Health - enough doses to treat the whole population. According to Sir Liam Donaldson, the Chief Medical Officer, the first doses could be available as soon as late August.

What do we know about who is being infected?

As part of a journalist briefing from Dr. Anne Schuchat from the CDC (Centre for Disease Control and Prevention) in the USA the following key points came out:

- nearly 80% of those hospitalised have been under 50
- average age for hospitalisation is 19
- average age for those who've died is higher, at 37
- about 75% of those who have died have had underlying health conditions
- there have been very few cases in people over 65, so they are very unlikely to be infected - but when they do get it, elderly people have a higher risk of complications and death
- there have been at least a million cases of this new H1N1 virus in the United States so far this year
- Some 6,000 cases reported in the last week

Is the mutation starting?

There is always the concern that H1N1 mutates to a more virulent strain. The problem is that any concentration on this could be seen as scare mongering so I will give reports as I find them. Germany seem to be particularly concerned about this possibility and here are some comments from their officials:

Germany's federal agency for infectious diseases said on Tuesday there were signs the H1N1 swine flu virus had started to mutate and warned it could spread in the coming months in a more aggressive form.

Experts were concerned about how the flu was developing in Australia and South America, said Joerg Hacker, head of the Robert Koch Institute for infectious diseases. "It's possible the virus has mutated. In autumn the mutated form could spread to the northern hemisphere and back to Germany," Hacker told a news conference in Berlin.

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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