

Glen Abbot Ltd.

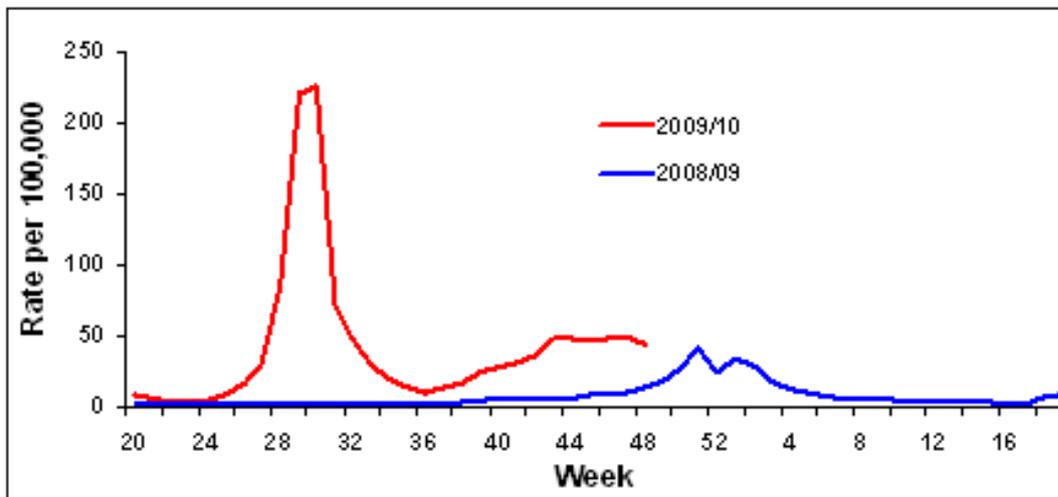
Swine Flu Briefing 46 – 06/12/2009

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Current Situation:

In England this week it is estimated that there were 22,000 new cases down from 46,000 last week.

Weekly consultation rate for flu-like illness in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (all ages)



In Scotland last week the number of cases was 12,300 a considerable decline from the 21,100 the previous week.

In the USA there was also a decline this week. Eleven European countries reported a increased level mostly in Eastern and Southern Europe.

All in all things seem to have calmed down and the levels present a lower threat. The risk is, however, that we become complacent.

Liam Donaldson.....

I've not had my usual mention for England's Chief Medical Officer for a couple of weeks so I thought he should get extra treatment this week.

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Here is a link to a podcast he has given for the British Medical Journal (BMJ) the doctors' magazine. Interesting on vaccines and so on if you are interested in this level of detail:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Aboutus/MinistersandDepartmentLeaders/ChiefMedicalOfficer/AboutTheChiefMedicalOfficerCMO/Inthespotlight/DH_109278

Also he has given his views this week on what the current status is and what still concerns him:

- The number of under-5s in hospital
- The continuing deaths from swine flu
- We might have bad winter ahead with normal seasonal flu and other winter ailments
- The "fear of mutation", although I should stress there is no sign of that
- It will be March before we can be sure that there is no further risk this winter.

Pandas protected.....

I know you like to have the best possible updates so here is one that you will want to know..... China has put in place plans to protect pandas at a research centre. No one actually knows if pandas can catch flu, but the Chinese are taking no risks. The good news is that all the 21 pandas are reported to be fit and well.....

Scottish Government Webinar

Having completed the webinar for the SG recently it is now on their website and on YouTube. I fear I will not be nominated when this year's Oscar ceremony comes around, but hopefully it is helping the SME sector (at which it was aimed) to prepare. There will be nothing new for most of you, but feel free to have a look.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rEGiPct5vbQ>

This week's conspiracy theory.....

I do try to find out some of the weirder stuff that is circulating on the internet just to give those of you with less time (or less sad!) an idea of what is being said. One of the favourites involves Donald Rumsfeld the Defense Secretary in the Bush administration. I have taken this from one of the conspiracy theory websites, I have no political comment on this and have no idea of whether there is truth in any of it, it is just an idea of what happens outside the mainstream...

In October 2005 the Pentagon ordered vaccination of all US military personnel worldwide against what it called Avian Flu, H5N1. Scare stories filled world media. Then, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld announced he had budgeted more than \$1 billion to stockpile the vaccine, Oseltamivir sold under the name, Tamiflu. President Bush called on Congress to appropriate another \$2 billion for Tamiflu stocks.

What Rumsfeld neglected to report at the time was a colossal conflict of interest. Prior to coming to Washington in January 2001, Rumsfeld had been chairman of a California pharmaceutical company, Gilead Sciences. Gilead Sciences held exclusive world patent rights to Tamiflu, a drug it had developed and whose world marketing rights were sold to the Swiss pharma giant, Roche. Rumsfeld was reportedly the largest stock holder in Gilead which got 10% of every Tamiflu dose Roche sold. When it leaked out, the Pentagon issued a curt statement to the effect that Secretary Rumsfeld had decided not to sell but to retain his stock in Gilead, claiming that to sell would have indicated something to hide.' That agonizing decision won him reported added millions as the Gilead share price soared more than 700% in weeks.

Past Briefings

All previous 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.



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