

Glen Abbot Ltd.

Swine Flu Briefing 11 – 08/05/2009

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Current Situation:

24 countries have officially reported 2371 cases of influenza A (H1N1) infection.

Mexico has reported 1112 laboratory confirmed human cases of infection, including 42 deaths. The United States has reported 896 laboratory confirmed human cases, including two deaths.

The United Kingdom has 32 cases with no deaths.

The following countries have reported laboratory confirmed cases with no deaths - Austria (1), Canada (201), China, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (1), Colombia (1), Costa Rica (1), Denmark (1), El Salvador (2), France (5), Germany (10), Guatemala (1), Ireland (1), Israel (6), Italy (5), Netherlands (2), New Zealand (5), Poland (1), Portugal (1), Republic of Korea (3), Spain (81), Sweden (1), Switzerland (1).

The WHO's Dr. Keiji Fukuda urged Asian governments to stay alert for a possible wider pandemic that "could infect a third or more of the world's population in the next several months, in the next year.

"Even if the illnesses appear relatively mild on an individual level, with large numbers of infections on the global population, you can get large numbers of seriously ill people," Fukuda told a conference in Bangkok.

Fukuda said H1N1 flu is not yet spreading in a sustained way outside North America, so the global pandemic level remains at 5 out of 6.

Fukuda said governments should be ready for H1N1 to turn into something far more serious. "This is a time in which we can work with countries to be as prepared as possible," he said.

In a series of reports rushed into the New England Journal of Medicine on Thursday, researchers said influenza viruses from animals are an ongoing threat and doctors need to keep a lookout for them.

As recent events suggest, the generation of novel influenza viruses through the reassortment of swine influenza viruses with other human and animal influenza viruses may be inevitable," Dr Lyn Finelli and colleagues wrote in one report.

What should companies do now?

If as I and many believe, we are seeing the first stage of pandemic development it is critical that companies do not become complacent simply because this strain appears to be mild and the spread slow.

The outbreak will come and go before perhaps hitting this winter. Everyone should make full use of the gap to get their pandemic plans up to date (or created) and tested.

Testing for pandemic are a special trick! Make sure you cover a virtual 15 week period and include the restart of business as usual.

I will cover more on testing in the next bulletin.

Future Briefings

Given that changes are now happening slowly I will not issue a weekend briefing unless there are significant developments. From next week I may reduce the frequency to twice a week. Happy to get the views of any subscriber on that though!

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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