

Briefing From DH Media Centre

Swine Flu – 3 December (3.00pm)

For release to government departments and swine flu stakeholders

The Department of Health held its regular swine flu press briefing today, with the Chief Medical Officer. There were no major new announcements. We did however give latest indications on the uptake of vaccine for priority groups, which now stands at around 1.6million. We also gave a figure for the number of healthcare workers who have received the vaccine. The figure stands at around 275,000

Presentation summary: CMO

- 38.6 per 100,000 consultation – small fall.
- Estimated 22,000 cases in the last week
- Cumulative total 790,000
- PCTS with decreasing rates well outnumber those with increasing rates
- Birmingham still near top of table
- Age groups – not straightforward – striking reduction of instances in school age children, cases in under ones have gone up
- Completed self-care – down from last week
- School outbreaks showing considerable activity overall
- Hospitalisations – same level as last week
- Intensive care staying level
- Increase in hospitalisations in under-fives – although these returns are based on hospitals telling us about suspected cases of swine flu, we have seen large increase in virus which tends to start coming into play at this time of year – the RSV (Human respiratory syncytial virus) Possible some of this is RSV effect.
- Influenza deaths -178 confirmed in England. Scotland – 54; Wales - 25 13 in Northern Ireland. Figures are not absolute – don't go through same system of validation in every country. These are also places of death, rather than place of residence. Normally other way around.
- Age of people dying in first and second wave (Wave 1 is taken from before 30 September). Shift to slightly younger age structure in the second wave.
- Internationally – US has been tracked closely throughout - distinctive downturn now.
- Vaccine in country: GSK – 14.9 million doses and Baxter – 3.1 million doses

Vaccine uptake

Public

Initial estimated data from GPs shows that around 1.6 million members of the public in groups at risk from swine flu have had the vaccine, so far.

18 million doses have been delivered to the UK, much of this is already with GPs or is on its way to them. Practices are currently contacting patients in the at risk groups inviting them to make appointments for vaccination.

As deliveries are made and the programme continues, we will report further uptake regularly.

Is there a regional breakdown?

We understand the regions will start to publish their own data in the next couple of weeks.

Staff uptake

Early indications show that 275,000 doses have been administered to frontline healthcare workers.