

## **Information Update from Department of Health**

### **Swine Flu – Tuesday 2 June 3pm**

61 further patients under investigation in England have today been confirmed with swine flu. Together with the 23 cases in Scotland announced yesterday (Monday June 01 2009) by the Scottish Executive, this brings the current total number of confirmed UK cases to 339 (see Health Protection Agency website for a breakdown of regional cases).

The number of confirmed cases published today is unique because the Health Protection Agency has changed its method of laboratory testing and reporting. Prior to today, samples were being tested in regional laboratories and then sent to the national laboratory in North London for the final stage of testing and confirmation of swine flu. A swine flu test has now been developed and rolled out to the regional network of laboratories which does not require final confirmatory testing to be carried out by the London laboratory. This has removed an obvious time lag in confirming cases. In real life this means that today the Health Protection Agency has been able to report more cases than would previously have been associated with one day. This is a one-off adjustment.

A Department of Health spokesperson said:

"The localised cases of swine flu found in the UK have so far been generally mild, and we have not seen evidence of widespread community transmission.

"We are continuing to work to slow the spread of the disease and to put in place arrangements to ensure that the UK is well-placed to deal with this new infection.

"But we must not be complacent — it is right to prepare for the possibility of a global pandemic."

### **Further Information**

If you have flu like symptoms and are concerned, stay at home, if you can go online check your symptoms on the symptom checker on [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk) or call the swine flu information line on 0800 1 513 513. If you have taken these steps and are still concerned call your GP or NHS Direct.