

Weekly Swine Flu Update

Thursday 3 December

- The consultation rate for flu-like illness in England from the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) scheme has decreased slightly to 38.6 per 100,000 in week 48 compared to 39.2 in week 47. This remains above the English baseline threshold of 30/100,000.
- Most indicators show that flu activity is starting to decrease across the UK. Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) laboratory reports continue to rise. It is a common cause of bronchiolitis and chest complaints in young children. Like flu, it is spread through droplets and secretions that are generated when coughing and sneezing.
- The estimated cases self referring to the National Pandemic Flu Service have shown decreases in all areas of assessments, authorisations and collections. This is with the exception of a slight increase in assessments in the 1-4 year age groups.
- Interpretation of data to produce estimates on the number of new cases continues to be subject to a considerable amount of uncertainty. HPA modelling gives an estimate of 22,000 new cases in England last week (range 11,000 to 47,000) which represents a significant decrease from the previous week. This estimate incorporates data from National Pandemic Flu Service and GP consultations.
- The HPA estimates a cumulative total number of cases of 790,000 (with a range 370,000 to 1,650,000) since the pandemic began.

Following the move from laboratory testing for confirmation of swine flu to clinical diagnosis of cases, the level of flu in the community is being monitored using a range of surveillance mechanisms, including the RCGP consultation rates, QSurveillance®, and the National Pandemic Flu Service.

Current plans are to issue a factual swine flu update every Thursday afternoon on the HPA website. These plans will be kept under review.

For more more information visit the Health Protection Agency (HPA) website.

- [HPA weekly swine flu update - 03 December 2009](#)