

Weekly Swine Flu Update

Thursday 5 November

The flu-like illness rate in England from the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) scheme decreased to 37.7 per 100,000 in week 44 compared to 42.8 in week 43.

- The main burden of flu-like illness nationally in week 44 is in the under 1 and 1-4 years age groups.
- This week, the antiviral collection numbers in the National Pandemic Flu Service have decreased in the 5-14 and 15-24 years 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 84,000 new cases in England last week (range 42,000 to 181,000). This represents an 8% increase on 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 621,000 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.

- [Health Protection Agency](#)