

Weekly Swine Flu Update

Thursday 12 November

The consultation rate for flu-like illness in England from the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) scheme decreased to 36.0 per 100,000 in week 45 compared to 37.7 in week 44.

- The main burden of flu-like illness nationally in week 45 is in the <1 and 1-4 years age groups.
- This week, the antiviral collection numbers in the National Pandemic Flu Service decreased in all age groups.
- The recent half-term school holidays may have continued to influence the figures this week, and so it is difficult to predict future trends.
- 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 64,000 new cases in England last week (range 32,000 to 140,000).
- This represents an 24% decrease 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 668,000 (with a range 313,000 to 1,382,000 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 pandemic flu update 12 November 2009](#)