

Weekly Swine Flu Update

Thursday 14 January 2010

NOTE: The Health Protection Agency (HPA) will no longer be producing a weekly pandemic flu media update. Should the position change in relation to the course of the pandemic then the updates will be resumed.

Information on the agency's surveillance of flu and other respiratory illnesses will be available in the routine HPA National Influenza Report, produced weekly by the agency and available on its website.

- A small increase in the rate of flu-like illness in England has been reported this week. The rate remains low and well within the baseline zone. Any increase should be interpreted with caution, however, as flu indicators may have been influenced by the holiday period in recent weeks.
- The consultation rate for flu-like illness in England from the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) scheme has increased to 19.9 per 100,000 in week 01 compared to 11.2 in week 53. This is below the English baseline threshold of 30/100,000.
- In week 01 overall weekly numbers showed a slight decrease in the number of assessments, antiviral authorisations and collections through the National Pandemic Flu Service. Rates remain very similar across all regions.

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.

For more information visit the HPA website

- [Health Protection Agency](#)