

Pandemic Flu Update from NHS The Week

Thursday 24 September

This week HPA figures continue to show a small increase in swine flu cases, suggesting the early stages of a second wave. These figures will continue to be monitored and you will be updated with any further developments.

The European Medicines Agency's (EMA) recommendation about the licensing of the swine flu vaccination is also still awaited. After this recommendation, the European Commission will make a licensing decision. In addition, the World Health Organisation (WHO) has today announced that outcomes of trials completed to date suggest that pandemic vaccines are as safe as seasonal influenza vaccines.

Finally, new guidance about the authorisation of antiviral medicines has been published after a change in the recommended dose for oseltamivir for children. You can read the guidance on the Department of Health website:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_105998.