

Weekly Swine Flu Update

Thursday 29 October

The flu-like illness rate in England from the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) scheme increased to 42.8 per 100,000 in week 43 compared to 39.1 in week 42. An increase was seen in all age groups.

- The main burden of flu-like illness nationally is in the 1-4 and 5-14 years age groups.
- This week, the antiviral collection numbers in the National Pandemic Flu Service have continued to increase and this has been seen in all age groups. The largest increase (49%) in week 43, compared with week 42, was seen in the 1-4 year olds.
- 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 78,000 new cases in England last week (range 39,000 to 169,000). This represents a 56% 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 521,000 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](#)