

Briefing From DH Media Centre

Swine Flu – 26 November (3.00pm)

For release to government departments and swine flu stakeholders

The Department of Health held its regular swine flu press briefing today, with the Chief Medical Officer. We also gave an early estimate of the number of people in the at-risk groups that have been vaccinated.

We have no estimates of the number of health care workers as data for this group will take longer to come through so an estimate was not possible. We did however share some informal uptake figures from three different hospitals.

Presentation summary: CMO

- Overall flat continuing high level hospitalisations
- Estimated 46,000 new cases
- Overall 760,000 estimated cases
- Daily GP consultation rates down
- Southwark highest rate of infection
- Mixed picture across regions
- Age groups – 65-74 upturn rise in under 5
- NPFS completed self care slight downturn
- Hotspots, east of England showing above average rates
- Yorkshire and Humber still highest number school outbreaks
- 753 hospitalisations, 154 in critical care
- slight downturn overall in hospitalisations
- overall hospitalisation rate – under 5's the highest
- paediatric intensive care numbers small changes can swing percentage
- 46 patients received ECMO
- 163 total deaths England; Wales 23; Scotland 45; Northern Ireland 13
- 244 total UK deaths
- age distribution – 61% younger adults 16-64, 18% older, 21% children under 15
- 86% of population satisfied with the amount of information give on swine flu
- Public attitudes: 20% worried catching swine flu
- women more worried than men, parents more worried than non parents
- 65% parents very fairly likely to have child vaccinated if offered
- Just starting to receive uptake data, early stages of the programme, in the priority groups is a sample from a number of practices, estimate 1m have had vaccine, haven't got any uptake data on healthcare workers, no existing system in place to collect data.
- Case studies – resulted from informal conversations from organisations. West Midlands ambulance offered vaccine to 1015

workers, 713 had agreed to take vaccine, Guys & St Thomas received 2000 doses, have administered 1500 to staff also delivering seasonal flu and administered 4000 doses compared to 2000 last year, York hospital – medium sized hospital – vaccinated over 1000 frontline staff.

- 14.m doses GSK delivered
- 2.3M delivered Baxter

Vaccine uptake

Public

Initial estimated data from GPs shows that around 1 million members of the public in groups at risk from swine flu have had the vaccine, so far.

14 million doses have been delivered to the UK, much of this is already with GPs or is on its way to them. Practices are currently contacting patients in the at risk groups inviting them to make appointments for vaccination.

As deliveries are made and the programme continues we will report further uptake regularly.

Is there a regional breakdown?

We understand the regions will start to publish their own data in the next couple of weeks.

Staff uptake

We are collating vaccine uptake figures from Primary Care Trusts now and expect to have complete, meaningful data to announce next week.