



RoodlaneMedical

Swine Flu – Updated Advice to Clients

30 April 2009

As you will be aware, the WHO pandemic alert level has moved to phase 5 - indicating that there is now proven human to human transmission of H1/N1 in more than one country in addition to the outbreak in Mexico. The main implication of this step up is that countries and organisations should now be preparing to activate their pandemic plans. For businesses this means preparing for non-essential staff to work from home / stay at home if we move to a full pandemic (phase 6).

Roodlane will operate "business as usual" and all of our sites and clinics will be running as normal. We will continue to dedicate resource to dealing with questions and clinical queries from our clients and to undertake clinical assessments by telephone and face to face where necessary.

There is still a question mark as to how virulent or dangerous the H1/N1 strain is to humans. Limited evidence to date suggests that it may be no more severe than normal winter time flu. The main difference is that each winter generally less than 15% of the population get flu, whereas a new strain like H1/N1 could affect 40% or more of the population. The main impact of a full pandemic will therefore be increased absence across your business. The typical pattern of infection is to have "waves" of affected individuals and these could be reduced in severity by the fact that we are now going into summer, with increased levels re-emerging in winter. It is clearly too early to model the outbreak on the current available data.

If the situation changes then we will update you.

If you require further information then please contact Hannah Hawkins at Roodlane Medical (hannah.hawkins@roodlane.co.uk).