

Business Advisory Network for Flu

19th October 2009

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Agenda

Factual Advice

- National situation
- International situation
- Planning assumptions

Policy update

- Sickness certification
- Vaccine

Postal strikes

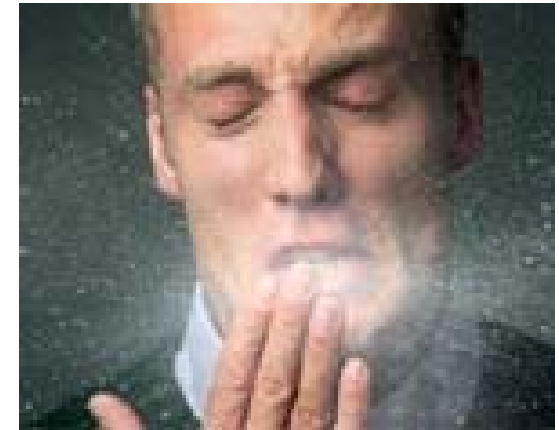


Swine Flu – Current Situation

as at 19th Oct

There has been sustained increase in H1N1 activity for the last few weeks, since the end of the school holidays

- Increase was expected when schools reopened after summer holidays and with the move towards influenza season
- Apparent epidemic growth rate currently much lower than observed prior to school holidays
- Epidemic has shown a consistent but relatively slowly increasing trend in activity across the whole of the UK in the past week

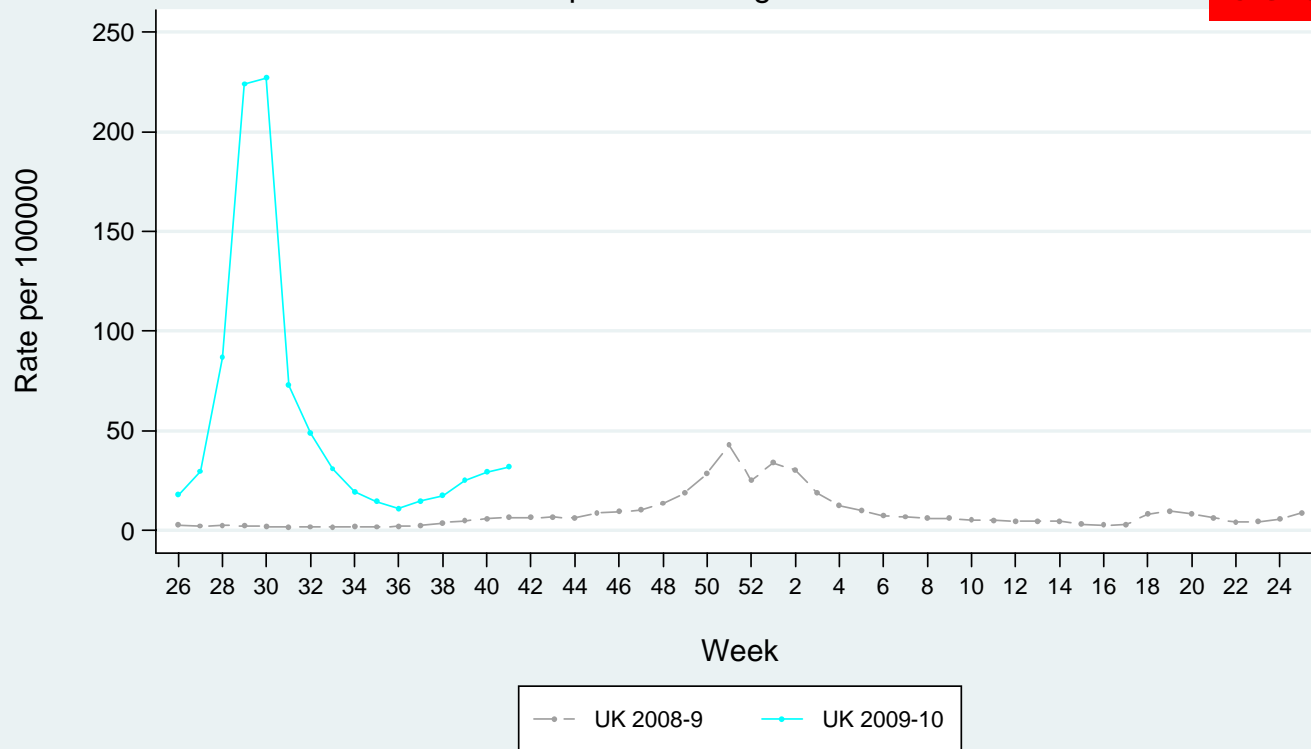


Consultation rates - Q Surveillance

QSurveillance® – daily consultation rate for influenza like illness in England by SHA (all ages)

Influenza like illness rate per 100000 population in the UK
All patients all ages

as at 19th Oct



(Database version 1)

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Data source: QSurveillance (weekly data) - 12 Oct 2009

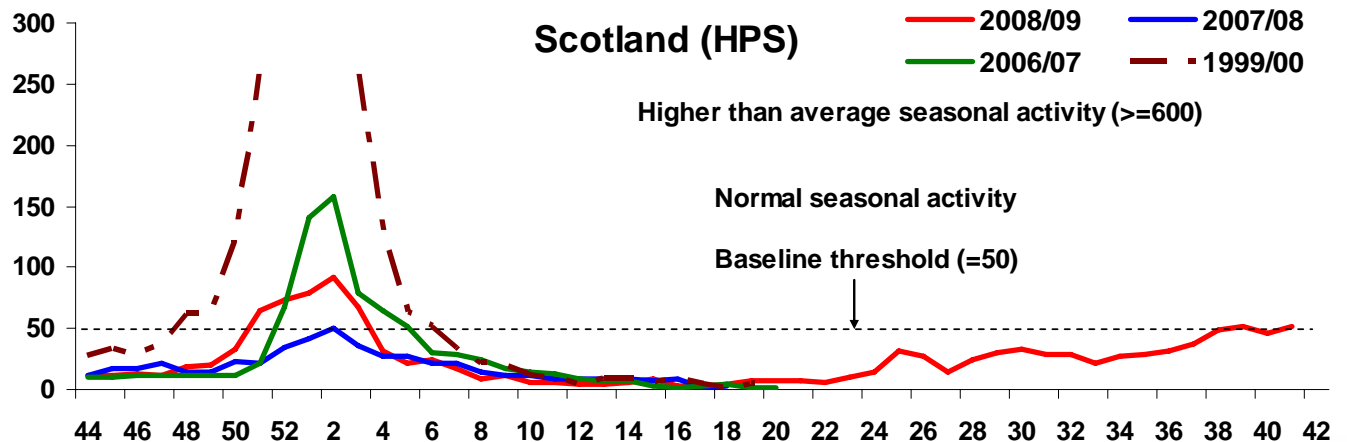
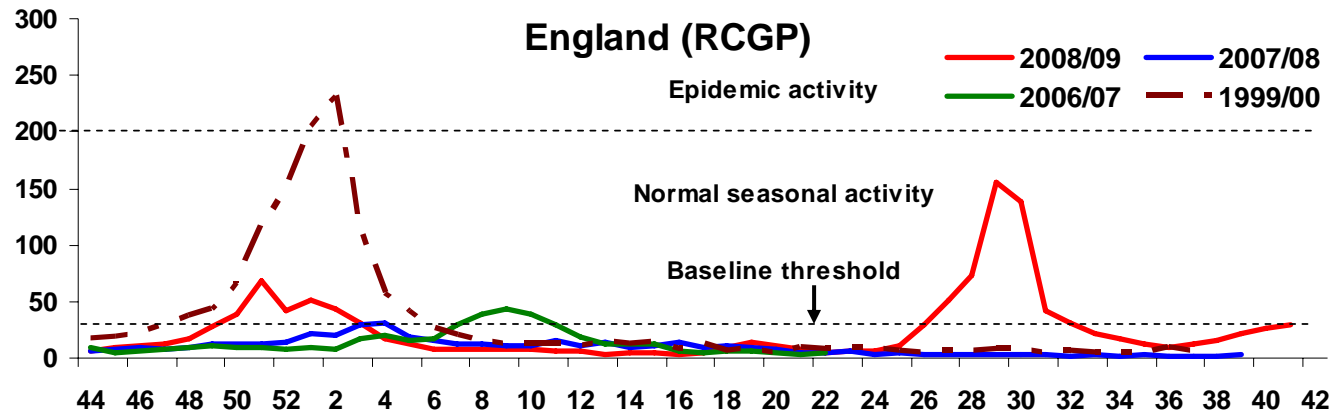
Data for the QSurveillance is based on data from 43% of England's population (about 3500 practices), 10% of the population in Wales, 17% in Northern Ireland, and 0% in Scotland.



Consultation Rates – National Sentinel Schemes

as at 19th Oct

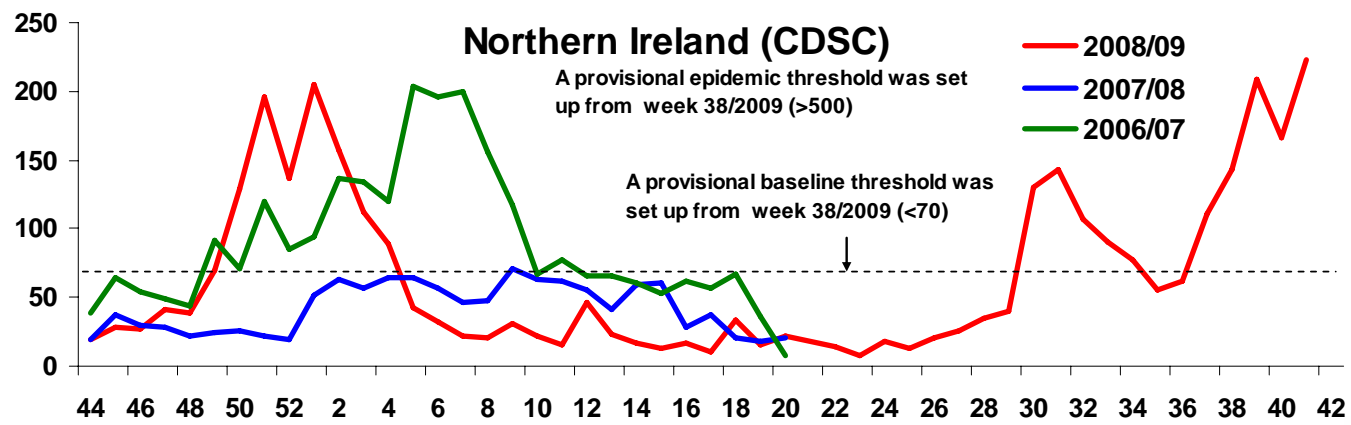
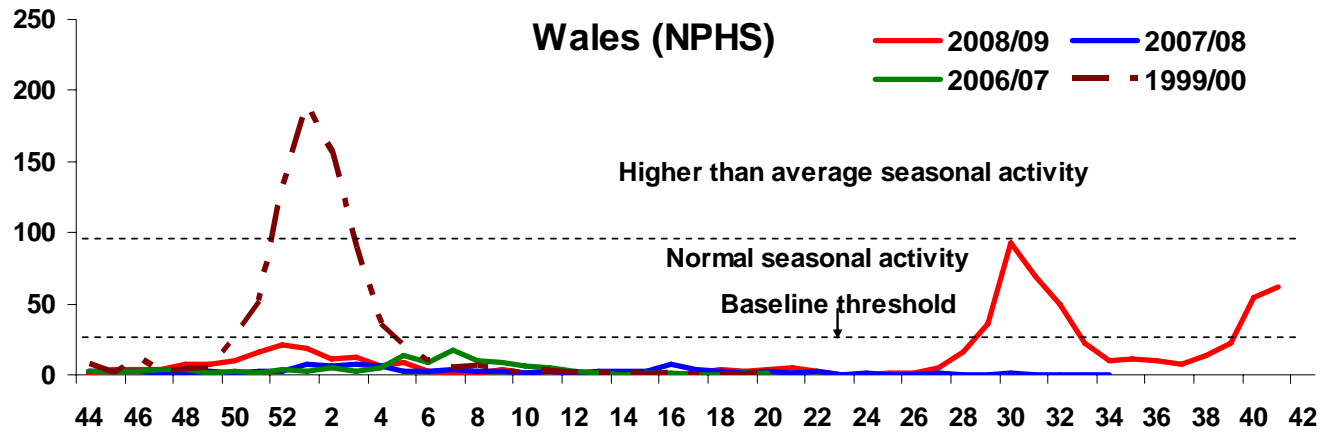
Primary care consultation rates for Influenza and Influenza like illness by UK country



Consultation Rates – National Sentinel Schemes

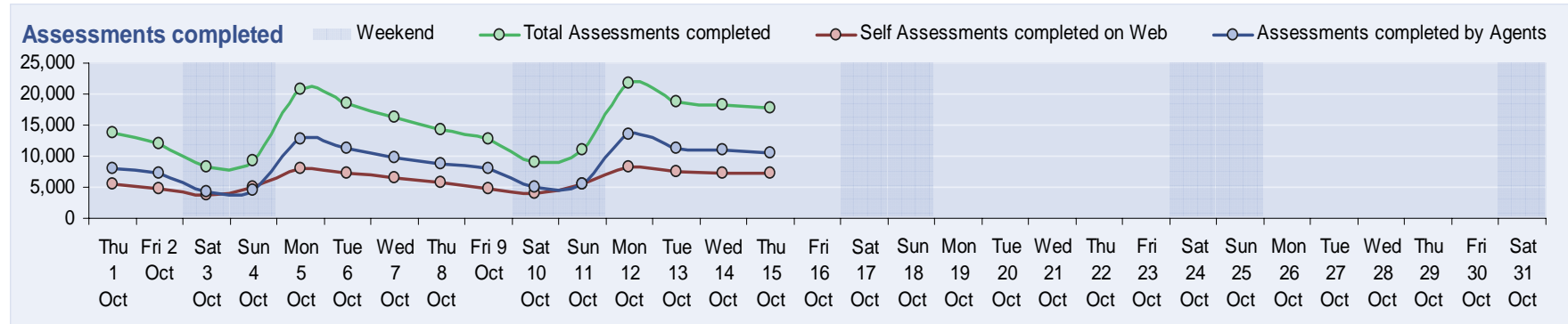
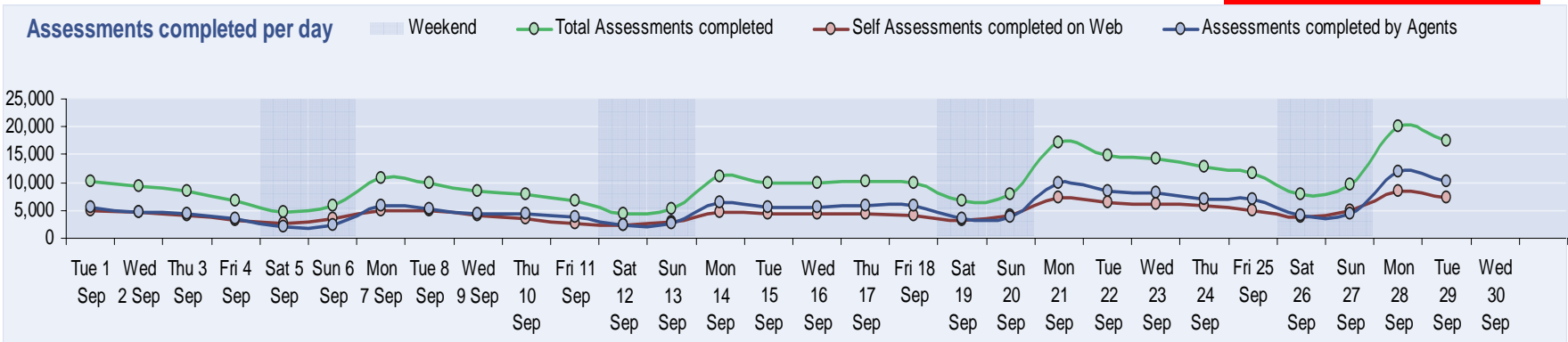
as at 19th Oct

Primary care consultation rates for Influenza and Influenza like illness by UK country



National Pandemic Flu Service

as at 19th Oct



Swine Flu – Impact & Treatment

- UK data suggests children more susceptible to virus and more infectious when ill
- Generally causes mild disease but can be severe for some people
- Treatment with antivirals reduces duration & severity of symptoms
- Vaccine programme to be rolled out to frontline health and social care workers and clinical at risk groups from 21st October

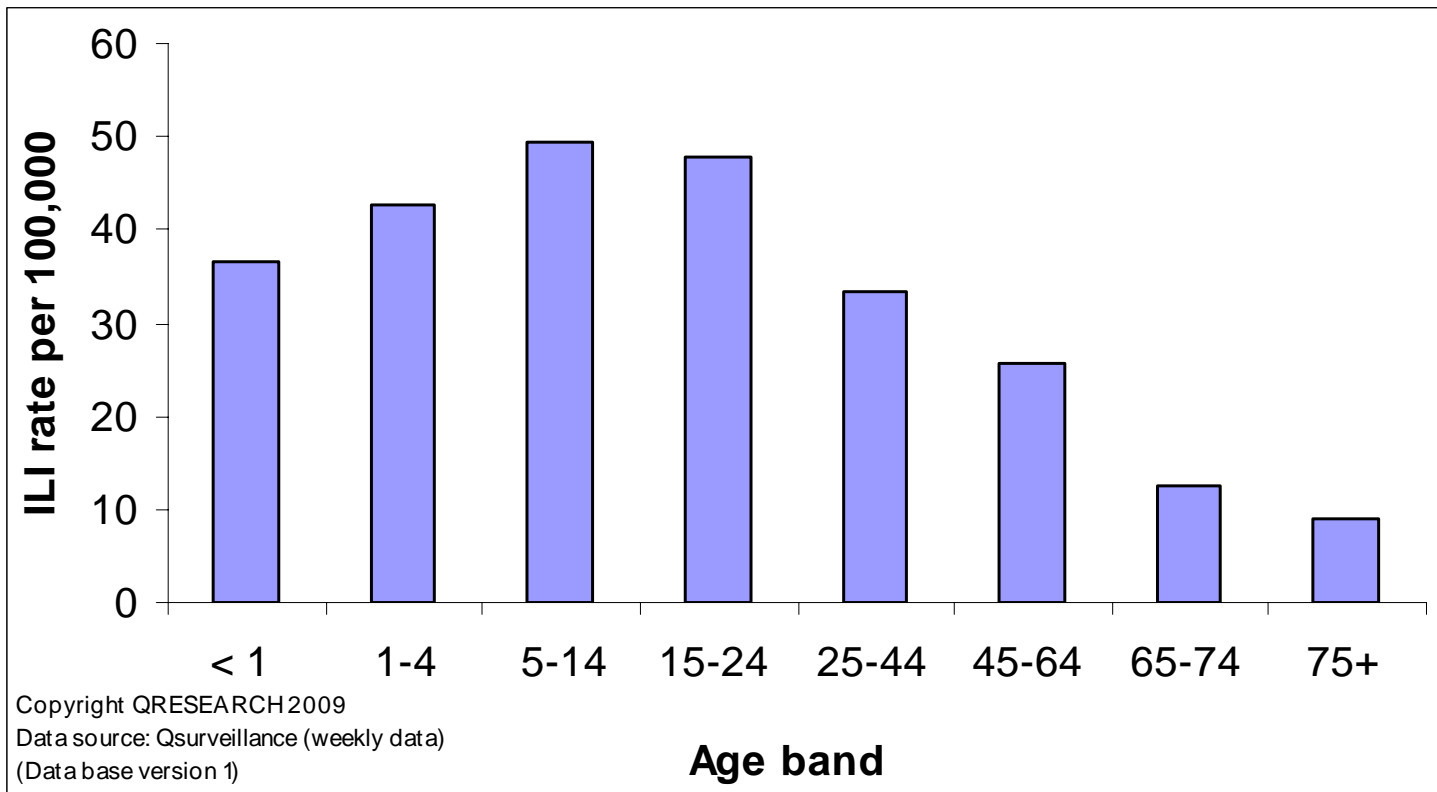
as at 19th Oct



Age-breakdown of cases

as at 19th Oct

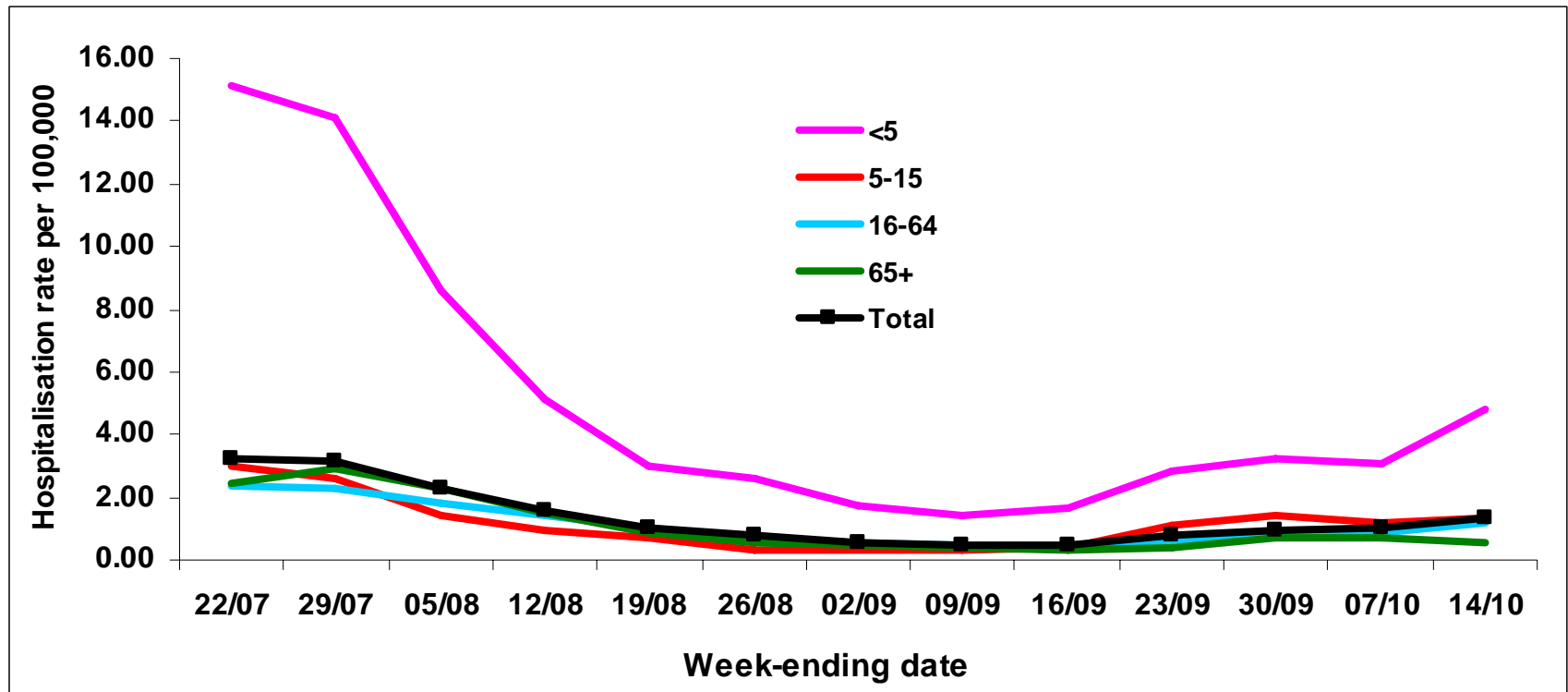
QSurveillance influenza-like illness rate by age band in week 41
(ending 11 October 2009)



Hospitalisations

as at 19th Oct

England: Daily rate (per 100,000) of new admissions to hospital with suspected pandemic influenza in the week up to 8am Wednesday 15 October 09.



Summary of International Situation

as at 19th Oct

Confirmed global deaths to ECDC 4,747 (15th October)

Pandemic influenza virus continues to be predominant circulating influenza virus of influenza, accounting for 75% of all influenza detections worldwide. Rise due to increases in the northern hemisphere

Tropical regions

- influenza activity remains variable

Temperate southern hemisphere regions:

- influenza transmission has largely returned to baseline (Chile, Argentina, and New Zealand) or has declined substantially (Australia and South Africa)

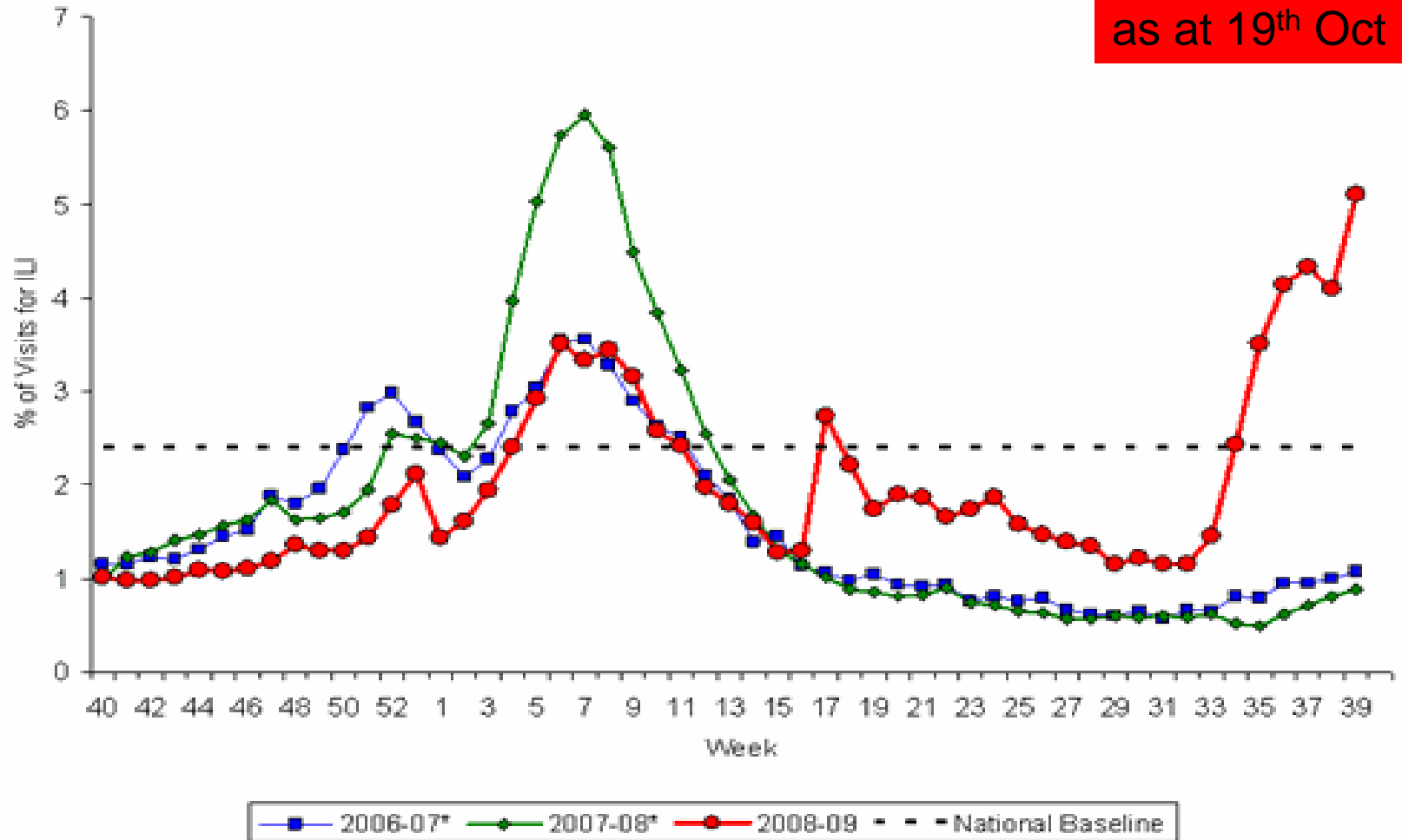
Temperate northern hemisphere regions:

- influenza virus transmission and rates of influenza-like-illness (ILI) continue to increase, reflecting an unusually early start to the autumn and winter influenza season in many countries



USA summary of visits with ILI

as at 19th Oct



Percentage of visits for ILI reported by US outpatient ILI surveillance network



Planning Assumptions for First Wave

- Based on analysis & modelling of data from both inside & outside the UK
- Kept under review - subject to change as further data becomes available on the current pandemic strain
- ‘Reasonable worst case’ - not taken as a prediction of how the pandemic will develop.



Available at:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/ukresilience/pandemicflu/risk/current_risk_assessment.aspx



Policy update

- **Sickness certification**
- **Vaccine**



Sickness Certification – Potential changes

Ministers have agreed that:

- No change required at present
- Guidance on current system issued – employers asked to reduce burden on GPs if possible via voluntary means
- Measure should be kept ‘on the stocks’ but:
 - As part of a wider package to reduce pressures on GPs
 - As a last resort only
- If introduced, extension from 7 to 10 days, for all illnesses, with ‘sunset’ clause after 3 months (but extension possible)
- Any change GB wide with NI matching legislation
- Advance notification to be given – triggers being worked on



Initial vaccine prioritisation

- Individuals aged between six months and up to 65 years in the current seasonal flu vaccine clinical at-risk groups
- All pregnant women
- Household contacts of immuno-compromised individuals;
- People aged 65 years and over in the current seasonal flu vaccine clinical at-risk groups.



Vaccine delivery

Licensing:

- UK pandemic influenza vaccines authorised by EC. Celvapan® (Baxter), and Pandemrix® (GlaxoSmithKline).
- Vaccines authorised for use in all Member States of EU and EEA.



Implementation:

- NHS Employers and GPC agreed package to support implementation of UK swine flu vaccination programme
- Delivery of supplies expected from 21st October
- Timing of programme dependent on delivery schedule and local arrangements for offering vaccination to front line staff and at risk groups



Vaccine donations

- UK to provide UN with up to £23 million equivalent to 10% of domestic supply of swine flu vaccine in order to help the developing world tackle the H1N1 pandemic.
- Commitment will not adversely affect UK preparedness.
- Comparable commitments being made by the US and other countries.



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