

Outline of the Presentation 'An introduction to Swine Flu'

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The introduction raised the question: 'What's it all about?' by considering the main differences between the common terms and categories of 'flu' :

- Piggy flu
- Birdie flu
- Man flu
- Pan flu

Having looked at types of flu the progression was to consider ' How do you get a pandemic?'

Identifying the main differences in transmission between Bird Flu and Swine Flu to highlight why Swine Flu may pose a far greater potential threat of escalating to a pandemic.

No.	Condition	Bird Flu	Swine Flu
1	New Influenza A virus sub-type to which the population has little or no pre-existing immunity	Yes	Yes
2	Causes significant illness	Yes	Yes
3	Spreads easily from person to person	No	Yes

There then followed an historic reflection to the size and scope and impact of some recent 20th Century Pandemics:

Name	Year	Type	Deaths
Spanish Flu	1918	H1N1	20-40 million
Asian Flu	1957	H2N2	2 million
Hong Kong Flu	1968	H3N2	1 million

We progressed from the lessons learned in history and returned to the present to consider :

What's happening now:

- **Clinical picture**
Currently smells like seasonal flu
- **Epidemiology**
Mainly young adults (school outbreaks)
Sustained/significant transmission in the community
- **Number crunching**
Local/Regional/National/International

And then looking forward to What might happen in the near future:

- ?
- Modelling/Historical perspective
- Prepare for a reasonable worst case scenario
- Planning assumptions
- The workplace – absenteeism and advice

Although as with all potential pandemic this is very difficult to predict.

The HPA website at: <http://www.hpa.org.uk/>

Provides regular updates and information as the current progression of Swine Flu and actions required are continually monitored and updated.