



The use of e-Bug during the H1N1 Influenza pandemic

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H1N1 INFLUENZA AND SCHOOLS

Approximately 100 schools in the UK closed after the start of the pandemic H1N1 influenza outbreak in May, but soon reopened when official advice changed as the pandemic became more prevalent.

By July 2009 more than 1000 schools recorded cases of swine flu across the UK but the majority of these stayed open.

It was essential to provide schools with more information on the outbreak in order to

- Dispel rumours and alleviate fears concerning the influenza pandemic.
- Help prevent further spread of the infection by educating students on hand and respiratory hygiene.

WHAT IS e-Bug?

e-Bug, an educational resource pack and accompanying website, sponsored by DG-SANCO of the European Commission and involving 18 EU countries, was designed to enhance student knowledge at primary and secondary school levels on four key areas:

- Introduction to Microbes
- Transfer of Infection
- Treatment of Infection
- Prevention of Infection



The e-Bug pack is supported by an accompanying website containing downloadable teaching materials to use in the classroom, as well as, interactive online games for children to play.

H1N1 INFLUENZA ACROSS EUROPE

As of 22 May 2009, all e-Bug associate partner countries had laboratory identified cases of H1N1 Influenza.

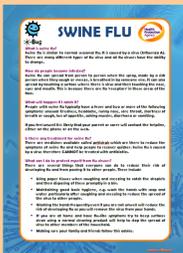


Countries with lab confirmed cases as reported to WHO as of 27 May 2009. Data from WHO.

These countries used the e-Bug resource to quickly and efficiently get key information to schools and school children

HOW WAS e-Bug UTILISED DURING THE H1N1 INFLUENZA PANDEMIC?

The swine flu fact sheet



A swine flu fact sheet, aimed at children, was developed, in collaboration with the Department of Children, Schools and Families (DCSF), the Department of Health (DH) and the Health Protection Agency (HPA) Respiratory Diseases Department.

This fact sheet contained all the key public messages, as advised by the DH and HPA, regarding swine flu but in a language suitable to school children.

The fact sheet was available for teachers, on the e-Bug website homepage, to download and display in their schools.

Spread of Infection resource sections



The e-Bug pack contains lesson plans on hand and respiratory hygiene for both junior and senior school aged children. These activities and lesson plans reinforce national key hygiene messages in relation to these topics.

Quick links to these interactive lesson plans and activities were made available on the e-Bug landing page, allowing teachers quick and easy access.



e-Bug Pandemic Flu Resources in Europe

Belgium, Denmark and the Czech Republic translated the swine flu fact sheet for use on their country's e-Bug website.

France, Greece, Italy, Poland, Portugal and Spain provided quick links on their home pages to the hand and respiratory hygiene sections of the e-Bug website.



SCHOOL USAGE OF e-Bug RESOURCES (May – July 2009)

Fact Sheet Downloads

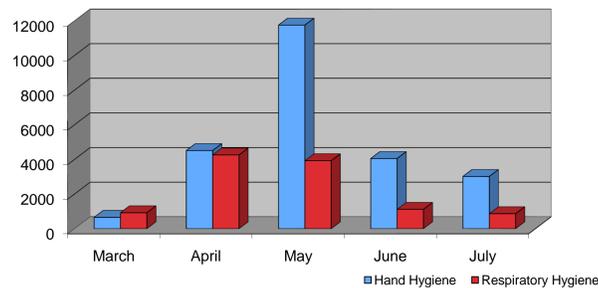
3765 **Junior** school downloads

1687 **Senior** school downloads

Geographic location ³	Page views
United Kingdom	3042
United States	76
France	44
Italy	27
Czech Republic	26
Australia	25
Portugal	23
Netherlands	22
Ireland	21
Germany	17
Spain	14
Japan	14
Egypt	11
Iran, Islamic Republic of	10
Austria	10
Philippines	10
Other	127

Hand and Respiratory Hygiene Downloads

Number of pack downloads from the hand and respiratory sections of the e-Bug pack from March - July 2009



A sharp rise in the quantity of Hand and Respiratory hygiene downloads were recorded at the onset of H1N1 Influenza pandemic.

The most downloaded pack sections were

Junior Pack	'The 6 steps of hand hygiene' student handout
Senior Pack	The Chain of Infection PowerPoint presentation

... I work for a school and we have found it [the fact sheet] very useful. We have placed a copy in all our toilets, medical and kitchen areas. Many thanks...
Teacher, Deincourt Community School, Derbyshire

SWINE FLU ACROSS EUROPE

The benefits of this approach

1. Speed: The e-Bug website provided a quick and easy medium to implement key messages, regarding the H1N1 Influenza pandemic, to school teachers and students.

2. United EU messages: The e-Bug working team consists of a network health professionals across Europe, interacting quickly and efficiently to provide united pan European messages.

3. Flexibility: As each e-Bug partner country has their own individual website, messages can be slightly altered to suit each country.

Follow up

20,500 e-Bug packs were sent to all maintained schools in England with a letter of endorsement from DCSF, DH and HPA, recommending the use of e-Bug in schools to help prevent the spread of infection.

Future use in other outbreaks

We are currently in the process of developing resources for school farmyard visits in response to the Griffin Report.

Visits were recorded from 190 different countries

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