GLASGOW CASE OF INFLUENZA A (H1N1) CONFIRMED

A 37-year-old Glasgow man has been confirmed as Scotland’s 14th case of influenza A (H1N1).

The man is currently seriously ill in hospital in Glasgow’s Victoria Royal Infirmary. He had been admitted for a bacterial infection of the respiratory tract and has other underlying health problems.

Routine testing following his admission identified him as a possible case of influenza A (H1N1) and he has now been verified as a positive case.

In addition, five of Scotland’s 10 possible cases now under investigation are members of the Glasgow man’s family.

Health Secretary Nicola Sturgeon said: “Clearly, this is a very unfortunate set of circumstances for this individual and my thoughts and wishes are with him and his family at what must be a very difficult time for them.

“It should be noted, however, that this individual has some very significant underlying health problems and it is not yet clear to what extent his infection with the H1N1 virus may have been a contributory factor to his condition or whether it is incidental.

“Without at all wanting to diminish the gravity of this development for this particular family, the threat to the general population in Scotland remains low.

“Most people have had only a mild reaction to the virus and our efforts to contain its spread have so far proved successful.
“Of course, we cannot be complacent, especially since the virus continues to spread worldwide and there is also the risk that the virus might mutate and become more virulent during the autumn and winter months.”

NOTE TO NEWS EDITORS

1. Ms Sturgeon is available for interview at the Scottish Parliament. To request an interview, please contact Communications Health and Wellbeing.

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