



ON THE RISE Bishop Vaughan Comprehensive School pupils Kimberley Meredith, Brad Barrett and Ryan Argyle. AH060709_A_-001

School goes coastal with new network

A SWANSEA school has become the first in a new network that will try to predict changes in the coastline over the coming century.

Bishop Vaughan Comprehensive School has become part of the Atlantic Rising network.

It will incorporate schools from 13 countries dotted around the Atlantic — which will be linked together through the internet.

To help the students get involved, three members of Atlantic Rising area will be travelling across 31 countries — a 13,500km journey which is expected to last a year.

This week, Bishop Vaughan school year eight pupils spent a day immersed in workshops learning about the coastline to mark the network's launch.

Swine flu will spread, claim health bosses

BY PAUL LEWIS
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HEALTH officials have changed their tactics as swine flu threatens to tighten its grip on Wales.

They are now having to rely on symptoms reported by GPs rather than laboratory testing to monitor the spread of the virus.

Neither will preventative medicine be given to contacts of people with swine flu, unless they have medical conditions.

The National Public Health Service's (NPHS) surveillance scheme, which records reports of flu diagnoses from more than 300 GP practices, currently shows low levels of influenza in Wales.

But, the NPHS says it's expecting this to increase and are warning people to be vigilant.

Symptoms

According to latest estimates, around 183 people across Wales have contacted their GPs with flu-like symptoms.

Not all of these people will have swine flu, but not everyone with symptoms of flu will have contacted their doctor.

Chief medical officer for Wales Tony Jewell said: "We

●THERE have been no new measles cases recorded in Swansea, Neath Port Talbot or Carmarthenshire in the past few days.

But experts said parents should not be complacent and should make sure their children have had the recommended shots.

Figures released yesterday show there were three new cases reported in Wales, taking the total to 344.

Swansea, Neath Port Talbot and Carmarthenshire have shown no change with 69, 36 and 85 cases respectively.

To date, 41 people have been hospitalised, with the outbreak affecting 17 of the 22 counties in

Wales. Dr Marion Lyons, head of the health protection teams with the National Public Health Service Wales, said: "The numbers of new cases in Wales being reported each day may be small.

Concerned

"But parents should remember that, in recent years in Wales, we have not seen a single case of measles all year, so new cases each day remains a cause for concern.

"Parents need to be concerned if their children are not vaccinated, regardless of where they live in Wales.

"There is a serious risk to any child who has not received two doses of MMR vaccine."

conditions, pregnant women and the under-fives. Dr Jewell said the majority of patients had suffered relatively mild symptoms and recovered within seven days.

But for some, the symptoms had been more severe and seven people with underlying health problems have died.

Meanwhile, health officials are urging people to be vigilant and continue good hygiene practices such as hand-washing.

Immunity

Dr Roland Salmon, director of the NPHS for Wales's Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre, said: "Because this particular type of swine flu is new, people have little or no immunity to it.

"For this reason, we know it will spread across the country eventually.

"People should not go to A&E departments or to their GP surgery because this may risk spreading the infection.

"It also places undue pressure on the emergency services."

People who think they may have flu and want to check their symptoms should stay at home. They can call the Swine Flu Information Line on 0800 1513513. If they are still concerned, they should contact NHS Direct Wales on 0845 4647.

knew there would be an increase in the number of cases, and we have robust plans in place to deal with it.

"Scientific advice now is that there will continue to be a rise in the number of cases across the UK and, knowing the infection is circulating, we have moved to treatment rather than trying to slow the spread of disease.

"We are now relying on clinical symptoms for diagnosing the illness rather than

laboratory tests. Some patients will still be tested as part of our monitoring to get more information about the virus.

"We are also stopping giving preventative medicine to people patients have been in contact with, unless clinicians determine it is appropriate due to their medical conditions."

Antivirals are now being focused on at-risk groups, such as those with chronic

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