**Swine Flu**

UK

Spreads through droplets when coughing/sneezing.

Symptoms:

* Fever/high temperature
* Tiredness
* Runny nose
* Sore throat
* Shortness of breath/ coughing
* Loss of appetite
* Aching muscles
* Diarrhoea/ vomiting

Risk to economy as people have time off work although mostly short-term.

Particular health risk to:

* Pregnant women
* Obese people
* Have heart disease
* Diabeties
* People with asthma/chronic lung disease
* Kidney disease
* Suppressed immune system (e.g. HIV)
* Those with neurological/ neuro-muscular disorders
* Over 65’s

The pandemic.

The swine flu (H1N1) virus first emerged in Mexico in April and has since spread to 74 countries.

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Official reports say there have been nearly 30,000 cases globally and 141 deaths, with figures rising daily. (Thursday, 11 June 2009)

It is the first flu pandemic in 40 years - the last in 1968 killed about one million people.

However, the current pandemic seems to be moderate and causing mild illness in most people.