



For GMB Members in **ASDA STORES**

GMB – WORKING FOR YOU IN ASDA

AUGUST 2009 - 51

SWINE FLU

Dear Colleagues

At the recent Stores National Forum there was a discussion about Swine Flu.

The Company advised us of their planning for potentially significant levels of sickness absence. The first part of the contingency plan for sickness absence will be to budget for additional hours in stores. In the case of high levels of absence, in the first instance overtime would be offered to stores workers. However, there are plans for bringing in additional seasonal workers.

At present it was stressed that, for the majority of people who get Swine Flu, the symptoms are reasonably mild. Absence levels due to Swine Flu in Asda are, thankfully, currently very low.

The GMB Side at the National Forum did raise concerns that the 3 waiting days for employees who are sick could force individuals to turn up for work where, in cases such as Swine Flu, they could infect others. We have also pressed the fact that managers get sick pay from day one. GMB believes that if paying sickness from day one is good enough for managers, it should be equally applied for all stores workers.

GMB believes in fairness and equity in stores.

GARY SMITH
NATIONAL SECRETARY

**FOR REPRESENTATION AND PROTECTION AT WORK
JOIN THE GMB**

www:gmb.org.uk/join

YOUR VOICE IN ASDA
GMB COMMERCIAL SERVICES SECTION