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Media alert from the Media Scanning & Verification Cell, IDSP-NCDC.

Alert ID	Publication Date	Reporting Date	Place Name	News Source/Publication Language
4517	07.02.2018	08.02.2018	Ahmedabad Gujarat	www.nyoooz.com/English https://www.nyoooz.com/news/ahmedabad/1028012/ahmedabad-mercury-dips-viral-cases-rise/
Title:	Ahmedabad: Mercury dips, viral cases rise, Gujarat			
Action By CSU, IDSP -NCDC	Information communicated to DSU- Ahmedabad, SSU-Gujarat			

Erratic fluctuations in temperature have resulted in a surge in cases of viral fever related to respiratory tract infection, according to city doctors. They said the number of patients who have come to them with viral fever has gone up by four to five times in the past two days, and they blamed it on the dip in temperature. The temperature in the city has been brought down by around five to six degrees in the past two days with light rainfall and an overcast sky. The weather is expected to persist.

"In the past one week, a sudden change in weather has been observed. Due to this, cases of viral fever related to respiratory tract infection have seen a rise. Such conditions can be easily transmitted from a sick person to a healthy person as the virus is often airborne in these cases," said ST Malhan, Superintendent of VS Hospital.

"In the past two days, I have treated several patients with viral fever, almost four to five times more than before the change in temperature. People are advised to stay indoors and avoid self-medication in case of fever," said Dr Pravin Garg, a senior doctor. He said that this might lead to a surge in H1N1 cases. In the past, the city

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**Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP), National Centre for Disease Control,
Ministry Of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India**

22-Sham Nath Marg, Delhi – 110 054

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has recorded the highest number of H1N1 cases in the month of February. "This is the most conducive weather for the H1N1 virus. I have treated three patients having symptoms of swine flu virus. Treatment for the fever is the usual but it needs extra dose and extra care," Garg added.

Dr Pragnesh Vachharajani, a general practitioner, said: "Those with weak immunity easily become victims of viral fever related to respiratory tract infection. The elderly and children are most susceptible to such diseases. Viral bronchitis and the resultant flu are contagious, more people are susceptible to these infections during this season."

Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) expects the surge to continue for the next four to five days. "Due to the dip in temperature, the surge might be seen for the next four to five days," said Dr Tejash Shah, Deputy Health Officer at AMC. "People are advised to see doctors. Our teams are regularly visiting slum pockets and treating people with fever and other diseases."

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