Media Scanning & Verification Cell

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

Alert ID	Publication Date	Reporting Date	Place Name	News Source/Publication Language
5789	21.02.2020	21.02.2020	Delhi	The Times of India English Newspaper 21st February, 2020/Page No. 06
Title:			**152 swine flu cases so far this year in Delhi: Report**	
Action By CSU, IDSP –NCDC			Information communicated to SSU-Delhi	

The latest data released by National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), a central health body, shows that 152 people have been confirmed positive for swine flu in Delhi as on February 16.

While no death has been reported from the capital yet, hospitals said there have been a few admissions among patients suffering from the viral illness.

"Admission is required in cases involving bilateral pneumonia and other severe symptoms. It is rare and happens mostly in elderly persons and those with pre-existing chronic illnesses such as diabetes and heart disease," said Dr Atul Gogia, senior consultant, internal medicine, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital. He, however, added that similar symptoms were exhibited even among persons suffering from seasonal influenza virus.

"Swine flu or H1N1 exists since 2009. It is a seasonal influenza only and people with milder symptoms like common cold, cough or fever need not undergo tests to confirm the strain of virus causing illness because these diseases are self-limiting," said Dr Mukesh Mehra, senior consultant, internal medicine, Max Patparganj.

♦Save Water- Save Life, 🌳Save a tree- Don't print unless it's really necessary!

Last year, Delhi had reported 3,627 cases of H1N1 of which 31 persons had died. The death toll across the country was 1,218 in 2019, the NCDC data revealed.

The latest update on H1N1 situation in the country shows 884 persons have been diagnosed positive for H1N1 over the last one-and-a half-months and there have been 14 deaths. Tamil Nadu reported the maximum cases (172), followed by Delhi (152), Karnataka (151) and Telangana (148).

Swine flu is a contagious respiratory disease caused by type A strain of the influenza virus. It enters the body through inhalation of contaminated droplets, or is transferred from a contaminated surface to the eyes, nose or mouth of a person. "The symptoms of swine flu are similar to common viral illnesses. Patients feel lethargic, have high-grade fever and sore throat, among other symptoms. The treatment is mostly symptomatic," said a doctor.

He added that maintaining hygiene was the most important. "People should wash their hands at regular intervals with disinfectants. If there is prolonged fever, one must see a doctor and not ignore symptoms such as difficulty in breathing," he said.