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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
4834	21.08.2018	24.08.2018	Pune Maharashtra	www.timesofindia.com/English https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/pune/swine-flu-claims-two-leaves-six-others-critical-in-august/articleshow/65479765.cms
Title:	Swine flu claims two, leaves six others critical in August 2018 in Pune, Maharashtra			
Action By CSU, IDSP -NCDC	Information communicated to DSU-Pune, SSU-Maharashtra			

Swine flu virus is rearing its head again, rendering two dead and leaving six others critical at various hospitals in the city in August alone. A 60-year-old woman from Model Colony died of the contagion on Sunday. A known patient of diabetes, hypertension and heart disease, she had developed symptoms of influenza, including fever with chills, cough, and weakness, on August 10.

"She developed breathlessness and drowsiness from August 16 and was put on ventilator support, following which she died of swine flu-induced pneumonia, acute respiratory distress syndrome and multi-organ failure around 10.15am on August 19. She had tested positive for swine flu," a doctor from Sahyadri hospital, Karve Road branch, said.

The other patient had died of swine flu at Ruby Hall Clinic on August 3. She was not a local resident and was referred to the hospital for medical treatment. "The woman (36) was a resident of village Yeoti in Osmanabad district. She had participated in Wari, an annual pilgrimage to Pandharpur, between July 9 and July 20," a doctor from Ruby Hall Clinic said.

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Disclaimer:- This is a media alert subject to verification.

**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

For more information please contact: Media Scanning & Verification Cell: - Phone (011)23946029

Email: - idsppediaalert@gmail.com, idspp-misc@nic.in, idspp-npo@nic.in

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Currently, six more patients diagnosed with the swine flu (H1N1) are critical and have been put on ventilator at different hospitals in the city.

Speaking about the rise in H1N1 cases, senior scientist Mandeep Chadha of the city-based National Institute of Virology (NIV) said, "This is a seasonal spike and need not panic about it."

He said swine flu and H3N2 seasonal influenza strains are the dominant strains now. "Although swine flu has become endemic and is like any other seasonal influenza strain now, we continue to monitor its genetic make-up to rule out the virus developing extreme virulence. However, there is no such thing now. It continues to be the Michigan strain of swine flu virus, which has been in circulation since last year," Chadha said.

The virus has killed 11 people mainly in Nagpur, Nashik, Pune and Pimpri Chinchwad this year so far. Kolhapur also reported a swine flu casualty last week. Anjali Sabne, assistant medical officer of health, Pune Municipal Corporation, said, "Private hospitals in the city communicated two deaths to us — one on August 3 and another on August 17. Both had tested positive for swine flu and were suffering from underlying medical condition. Hence, till the death audit committee confirms their cause of death due to swine flu, we will consider them suspected H1N1 casualties."

Among the six patients who have been put on ventilator at various hospitals in the city, three are local residents, while the remaining three were referred to hospitals in Pune from adjoining areas and districts.

The local residents include a 23-year-old woman from Lohegaon, a 55-year-old woman from Hadapsar and a 38-year-old man from Dhayari. The other three hail from village Lonand and village Chas in Ahmednagar district, and village Bavda in Satara district.

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