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Government of India



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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
4903	19.09.2018	19.09.2018	Kozhikode Kerala	The Hindu English Newspaper 19 th September, 2018/Page No. 05
Title:	Doctors call for vigil against H1N1 in Kozhikode, Kerala			
Action By CSU, IDSP -NCDC	Information communicated to DSU- Kozhikode, SSU-Kerala			

With sporadic cases of H1N1 (Influenza) being reported from across the State, especially in districts such as Kozhikode, doctors have sought for greater caution against the acute respiratory infection.

The Indian Medical Association (IMA) has asked its members to be wary of the presence of the influenza, saying around a dozen cases had been reported from Kozhikode and Malappuram in the past few days. The patients are undergoing treatment at various hospitals, including the Government Medical College Hospital, Kozhikode.

According to the data available with the Health Department, 53 confirmed cases of H1N1 (Influenza) have been reported so far in September, around 30 of them in the past 10 days alone. A senior doctor attached to the community medicine department of the Government Medical College, Manjeri, told The Hindu on Monday that the incidence had been expected after the floods. Though the number of cases reported in June and July were fewer than the previous years, the situation could have changed after the floods as the environment could be more susceptible to the infection. There could be more cases in Malabar because more people were travelling abroad, especially Gulf countries, from here. Those who return might bring along with the respiratory infection, which could spread among those who closely interact with them, he added.

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

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The World Health Organization (WHO) says travellers visiting countries in the opposite hemisphere during the influenza season are at special risk, particular if they do not have some degree of immunity through recent infection or regular vaccination. The elderly, people with pre-existing chronic diseases and young children are most susceptible to complications.

N. Sulphi, secretary, IMA Kerala chapter, however, said there was no alarming situation as of now though there was need to be alert against any possible outbreak. Avoiding crowded enclosed spaces and close contact with people suffering from acute respiratory infections is the best precaution, says WHO. Frequent hand-washing, especially after direct contact with ill persons or their environment, may reduce the risk of acquiring illness, it adds.

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