



# 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
6862	21.07.2022	22.07.2022	Mumbai Maharashtra	www.timesofindia.com/English <a href="https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mumbai/4-swine-flu-patients-in-mumbai-on-life-support-virus-in-the-air-say-doctors/articleshowprint/93015321.cms">https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mumbai/4-swine-flu-patients-in-mumbai-on-life-support-virus-in-the-air-say-doctors/articleshowprint/93015321.cms</a>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>4 swine flu patients in Mumbai on life support; virus in the air, say doctors, Maharashtra</b>			
Action By CSU, IDSP -NCDC	Information communicated to DSU- Mumbai, SSU- Maharashtra			

At least four people infected with influenza H1N1 (swine flu) are on life support in the city. Doctors caution that the viral infection is back in circulation in the city and people who test negative for Covid-19 must be tested for H1N1 by their physicians.

The civic body on Tuesday said 11 confirmed cases of influenza H1N1 have been reported in July, up from two in June. These numbers are only the tip of the iceberg though, said doctors, adding most are encountering a minimum of two to three cases in their outpatient departments daily. Like Covid-19, H1N1 is a respiratory disease, which started as a global pandemic in 2019 but became endemic soon after.

At Bandra's Lilavati Hospital, two patients below the age of 50 years are on extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) therapy, considered the last resort and offered when even ventilatory support has failed. The hospital has five other patients admitted in wards with H1N1.

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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

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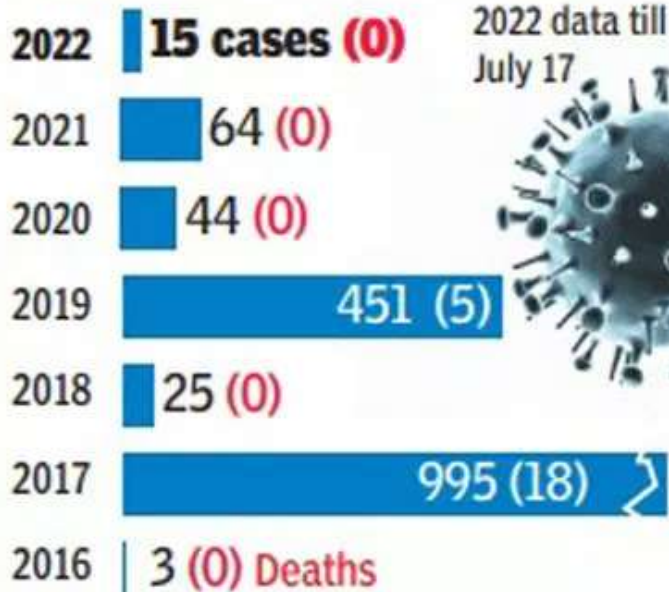
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# 'IT'S COMPETING WITH COVID'

## H1N1 cases and deaths in Mumbai



## Emergence of H1N1

- It is a respiratory virus, previously found in pigs
- Over time, the virus mutated and infected humans
- Caused a global pandemic in 2009, claiming thousands of lives and affecting millions
- WHO declared H1N1 pandemic over in August 2010
- It is now a regular human flu virus and continues to circulate seasonally worldwide

**“** H1N1 virus can precipitate underlying health conditions of the lung and heart. Flu shots can protect against severe disease – **Dr Vasant Nagvekar** | INFECTIOUS DISEASE EXPERT

**Symptoms: Coughing, sneezing, breathing difficulty, fever**

Pulmonologist Dr Prahlad Prabhudesai said a severe H1N1 infection badly affected the lungs of these patients on ECMO. "At least 50% of patients with flu-like symptoms are coming positive for H1N1. It can be said H1N1 is competing with Covid right now," he said.

The cases started to rise around three weeks ago, according to chest physician Dr Rajesh Sharma, who consults with H N Reliance Hospital. "These patients would

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come with high fever and all signs of upper respiratory tract infection. But when tested, they would be negative for Covid," he said, adding it is crucial to rightly diagnose swine flu as there are effective drugs available.

A delay in diagnosis could land some in serious trouble like one of his patients, who is currently on ECMO. The patient (45) came to the hospital with severe breathlessness, high fever and cough after seeing a local doctor. "H1N1 was not diagnosed for 10 days before he came to us with extremely bad lungs," Dr Sharma said. The patient is recovering but it would take a while. Dr Sharma has consulted in the case of another young H1N1 patient in the ICU in another hospital.

Last week, the state confirmed its first H1N1 2022 casualty, a 9-year-old girl from Talasari, Palghar, on July 10. In the city, no confirmed H1N1 death has been reported in the past three years, though there were 44 cases in 2020 and 64 in 2021.

Unlike Covid, highly effective drugs are available to treat swine flu such as Oseltamivir. "It works beautifully, provided it is administered within 48-72 hours and criticality can be avoided," said infectious disease expert Dr Vasant Nagvekar who has treated over a dozen cases in the past few weeks. "In most cases, symptoms are fever, runny nose, bodyache, upper respiratory infection," he said. Physicians must keep a very high index of suspicion for H1N1, he added. A worrying factor is test cost: About Rs 3,000. Dr Nagvekar said those with serious symptoms must not wait thinking it's Covid.

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