

Seasonal Influenza A H1N1

Action Taken by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

- Health being a State subject, the State Governments is expected to take prompt measures for preventing the spread of H1N1 virus and for diagnosis, case management and treatment of the patients. However, the Central Government has been pro-active in assisting the State Governments.
- Cabinet Secretary held video conferencing with the affected States on 19.02.2015.
- MOHFW deputed senior level Public Health Teams to Gujarat, Rajasthan and Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, West Bengal and Jammu and Kashmir to assess the situation and assist the States in managing the current spurt in cases. Services of Specialists in Respiratory Intensive Care were made available to State of Rajasthan for managing critical care patients.
- Review meetings are being held at the level of HFM, Secretary (Health), DGHS, AS (Health) and JS (Public Health). Union Health Secretary is holding video-conferences with the affected States on regular basis.
- Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) and its State units have enhanced the surveillance for Influenza Like Illness (ILI) and Severe Acute Respiratory Infections (SARI). The States of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Telangana are doing active surveillance in the community to detect cases early.
- IDSP assisted lab network of 12 Laboratories are providing laboratory support in terms of testing, quality assurance, guidance, providing viral transport mediums and diagnostic reagents. The laboratory network of ICMR (9 labs) has also been activated to test for H1N1 cases. In addition, NCDC is providing diagnostic kits and Viral Transport Medium kits to States to be used in laboratories/ hospitals identified by the State Governments. MOHFW is procuring 10000 diagnostic kits to be kept as an emergency stock.
- The States have been asked to follow the risk categorization followed during the Pandemic {Category A [mild cases: domiciliary care, no drug treatment; Category B [requires drug Oseltamivir, but no hospitalization] and Category C [requires drug

treatment, testing and hospitalization]}. The protocol for categorization and ventilator management of Influenza cases have been reviewed and provided to all the States.

- Oseltamivir is the drug recommended by WHO. The drug is made available through the Public Health System free of cost. The drug is also sold through Schedule X Chemists. The States have been asked to review the geographic locations of Schedule X Chemists and issue fresh license for unrepresented areas and to ensure availability of Osetamivir with them. All the affected States have stock of this drug. MOHFW has procured 1,60,000 capsules of Oseltamivir. MSO is procuring an additional 2,00,000 capsules as an emergency stock. Presently a stock of 1,012,00 (75 mg) capsules and 10000 (30 mg) are available in the stock of MSO.
- MOHFW has recommended vaccination for health care workers. A joint Statement issued by Indian Medical Association and subject experts have reiterated the stand taken by MOHFW that vaccination for public is not advocated as a public health strategy at this juncture to mitigate the impact of the current outbreak.
- MOHFW has a stock of about 12,000 Personal Protective Equipments and 7500 N 95 masks. MOHFW has met the requisitions received from Rajasthan, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Bihar, West Bengal and Delhi. About 3500 numbers of N-95 masks were also issued to the States of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab and Bihar.
- Rapid Response Teams up to District level and Clinicians from all the States / UTs underwent training during the Pandemic (2009). In case States decide to train its health workers again, MOHFW would be in a position to support with resource persons.
- Regular advertisements for do's and don'ts for Influenza A H1N1 are being issued by MOHFW in national and local newspapers. Radio Spots would continue to be aired for the next 15 days. Visual media materials have been kept ready for roll out. The affected States have also been asked to scale up IEC activities.
- The Outbreak Monitoring Cell of NCDC is functioning round the clock to attend to public queries. The call number is 011-23921401.
- The situation is being monitored regularly. The officers of MoHFW are in regular touch with the State Governments officers on telephone and through video conferencing.