

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3127  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28.03.2023**

**DATA RELATED TO FLU VIRUS IN THE COUNTRY**

**3127. SHRI NARAIN DASS GUPTA:**

Will the Minister of **HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that there is an outbreak of H3N2 flu in the country;
- (b) if so, the number of patients of said flu admitted so far in various hospitals of the country;
- (c) whether there have been any deaths due to this flu in the country;
- (d) if so, the details of such places thereof;
- (e) the necessary steps taken by the Ministry to prevent this disease; and
- (f) by when the country is expected to get rid of this disease?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND  
FAMILY WELFARE  
(DR. BHARATI PRAVIN PAWAR)**

(a) to (f):

As per information provided by States/UTs, a total 1317 cases of H3N2 and 03 deaths (01 each from Haryana, Karnataka and Maharashtra) have been reported from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023 to 21<sup>st</sup> March 2023. As per ICMR, amongst 510 cases of H3N2 reported from Pan –India ILI/SARI surveillance over last two months, 337 patients were admitted to the hospitals.

Union Health Ministry monitors the situation and has taken several steps to support states for management of influenza cases including H3N2.

Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has issued an Advisory requested all states/UTs to take necessary steps including:

- Closely follow the trend of Influenza-like illness/Severe Acute Respiratory Infections (ILI/SARI) in respective areas, monitor the proportion of SARI cases among all ILI& SARI cases and refer sufficient number of samples for testing for Influenza, SARS-CoV-2 etc.
- Raise community awareness regarding adherence to respiratory and hand hygiene (like covering one's mouth and nose with a tissue/elbow when coughing or sneezing, avoiding spitting in public places, preferably use of mask in crowded environments, frequent hand wash etc.), promoting early reporting of symptoms, and limiting contact, if suffering from respiratory illness.
- Widely disseminate technical guidelines for Seasonal Influenza (<https://main.mohfw.gov.in/basicpage/technical-guidelines>), COVID-19 (<https://mohfw.gov.in>) etc. which have also been made available on the website of this Ministry
- Implement 'Operational Guidelines for Revised Surveillance Strategy in Context of COVID-19' which provides for integrated surveillance of respiratory pathogens presenting as cases of ILI/SARI available at: <https://www.mohfw.gov.in/pdf/OperationalGuidelinesforRevisedSurveillanceStrategyincontextofCOVID-19.pdf>.
- Take stock of hospital preparedness including drugs, medical equipment, capacity building of human resource on existing guidelines as well as vaccination coverage against COVID-19 and Influenza.

To ensure adequate infrastructure at district level, Government of India provides financial assistance to all States/UTs under National Health Mission for strengthening public health care systems including setting up new health facilities and infrastructure upgradation under various schemes.

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