

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.5512
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26TH JULY, 2019**

H3N2 VIRUS

5512. DR. SHASHI THAROOR:

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

- (a) whether his Ministry maintains data for the H3N2 virus, which is a common and widely spreading form of influenza in India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the cases detected and deaths reported due to such disease since 2009, State/UT-wise and year-wise; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)**

(a) to (c): Influenza, commonly known as the “flu”, is an acute infection of the respiratory tract caused by influenza viruses. Influenza A (H1N1) virus, now a seasonal influenza virus co-circulates with other seasonal viruses (namely influenza A (H3N2) and influenza B viruses). Government of India does not specifically maintain country-wide case data of H3N2 virus.

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is actively involved in monitoring and controlling the seasonal influenza cases in the country. A network of 12 laboratories under the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) is dedicated in its efforts for supporting the influenza surveillance and testing by Real time RT-PCR. In addition, another network of laboratories (VRDL labs) under the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) is also providing facilities for diagnosis and research for influenza in the country. Most of the labs in these networks are testing and carrying out surveillance for seasonal influenza A (H3N2) in addition to Influenza A H1N1.

The laboratories send their data to the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) and IDSP, where the data is compiled and analysed for cases confirmed in the laboratories’ network. Data of seasonal Influenza A H3N2 from laboratories under the IDSP lab network for the last 3 years is given in **Annexure**.

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Annexure

Year Wise Samples of H3N2

S. No.	IDSP Network Labs	Year					
		2017		2018		2019 (till 19.07.2019)	
		Total sample tested	H3N2 positive	Total sample tested	H3N2 positive	Total sample tested	H3N2 positive
1	KMC Manipal	17,261	1,318	11,010	508	8,298	370
2	BJ MC Ahmddb	7,103	1	3,921	5	4,995	-
3	NEIGRIHMS Shillong	54	1	36	0	9	-
4	HAFFKINE Mumbai	1,849	438	376	23	431	26
5	IGMC Shimla	812	1	243	0	1,396	2
6	NIMHANS Bnglor	1,309	140	1,064	191	747	173
7	JIPMER Puducherry	1,280	50	684	1	504	5
8	CRI Kasauli	40	0	119	0	56	-
9	IPM Hyderabad	13,186	0	6,253	-	3,432	-
10	SGPGIMS Lucknow	2,469	0	396	-	1,353	-
11	PGIMER Chandigarh	1,582	0	543	-	-	-
12	NCDC Delhi	4,399	0	1,631	93	4,746	6