

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4125  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24.03.2023**

**RISING CASES OF INFLUENZA SUBTYPE A H3N2**

**4125. DR. DNV SENTHILKUMAR S.:  
SHRI C.N. ANNADURAI:  
SHRI MANICKAM TAGORE B.:  
SHRIMATI MANJULATA MANDAL:  
SHRI SELVAM G.:  
SHRI DHANUSH M. KUMAR:**

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

- (a) whether cases of cough and fever linked to Influenza subtype A H3N2 have been reported in various parts of the country and if so, the details of number of such cases reported and those treated, State/UT-wise;
- (b) whether the Government has reviewed the preparedness of the States and adequacy of availability of drugs to deal with the disease and if so, the details of financial and technical assistance including drugs provided to States for treatment of this disease;
- (c) whether it is a fact that people are taking antibiotics to treat Infection caused by H3N2 and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether Indian Medical Association (IMA) has issued note of caution against misuse of antibiotics and if so, the details thereof and the outcome of the advisory;
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government for proper management and creation of health infrastructure for early detection and treatment of this disease;
- (f) whether Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR) has indicated that the virus appears to lead to more hospitalization than other influenza subtypes;
- (g) whether many patients who have been hospitalized with severe acute respiratory infections have tested positive for Influenza A H3N2 virus, if so, the details thereof; and
- (h) whether the Government has taken any precautionary steps in light of the warnings by ICMR and if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) to (h):

As per information provided by States/UTs, total 1161 cases of H3N2 have been reported from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023 to 20<sup>th</sup> March 2023. State/UTs- wise details is at Annexure.

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

- 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.

As part of ILI/SARI surveillance conducted by ICMR, 50% of the total hospitals admitted cases due to respiratory infection are due to H3N2 Influenza in last two months and most of these cases presented with symptoms of cough and fever.

H3N2 is a viral respiratory infection and antibiotics have no role in treatment of a viral infection. However, sometimes in respiratory infections a bacterial infection may co-occur along with a viral infection and therefore physicians may prescribe an antibiotic to take care of secondary bacterial infections.

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**Annexure**

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>States/UTs</b>	<b>Cases</b>
1	Andaman & Nicobar	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	12
3	Arunachal Pradesh	0
4	Assam	1
5	Bihar	1
6	Chandigarh	2
7	Chhattisgarh	1
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0
9	Daman & Diu	0
10	Delhi	370
11	Goa	1
12	Gujarat	9
13	Haryana	10
14	Himachal Pradesh	0
15	Jammu	0
16	Kashmir	4
17	Jharkhand	0
18	Karnataka	134
19	Kerala	49
20	Ladakh	0
21	Lakshadweep	0
22	Madhya Pradesh	1
23	Maharashtra	184
24	Manipur	0
25	Meghalaya	0
26	Mizoram	0
27	Nagaland	0
28	Odisha	28
29	Puducherry	99
30	Punjab	25
31	Rajasthan	180
32	Sikkim	0
33	Tamil Nadu	0
34	Telangana	0
35	Tripura	4
36	Uttarakhand	7
37	Uttar Pradesh	19
38	West Bengal	20