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Media alert from the Media Scanning & Verification Cell, IDSP-NCDC.

Alert ID	Publication Date	Reporting Date	Place Name	News Source/Publication Language
5706	15.01.2020	17.01.2020	Pune Maharashtra	www.timesofindia.com/English https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/pune/early-start-to-h1n1-season-40-year-old-satara-man-dies/articleshow/73281604.cms
Title:	Early start to H1N1 season, 40-year old Satara man dies in Pune, Maharashtra			
Action By CSU, IDSP -NCDC	Information communicated to DSU-Pune, SSU-Maharashtra			

It is still too soon to know how severe this season will be, but swine flu claimed its first victim in the city and the state this year on January 10.

The 40-year-old man from the rural parts of Satara died after he tested positive for the contagion at KEM Hospital in Rasta Peth. *It is still too soon to know how severe this season will be, but swine flu claimed its first victim in the city and the state this year on January 10*

Currently, a 64-year-old woman of Sangvi in Pune is critical and undergoing treatment at the intensive care unit of Sahyadri Hospital in the city.

As many as six patients from Mumbai, Navi Mumbai, Thane and Pune have tested positive for the virus in Maharashtra between January 1 and January 13, this year. Symptoms of swine flu are similar to a common cold and people often take it lightly in the initial stages till it turns critical.

In 2019, as many as 2,287 people in the state were diagnosed with the H1N1 infection. Of them, 246 people succumbed to the contagion, accounting for a significant mortality rate of 10% calling for vigilance and also initiation of early treatment for influenza-like illness, say experts.

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**Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP), National Centre for Disease Control,
Ministry Of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India**

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"Scientists at the National Institute of Virology (NIV) confirmed the presence of H1N1 virus in the man's throat swab on January 2. He succumbed to swine flu-induced acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) with septicemia around 5.50am on January 10. He was diabetic," a doctor from the KEM Hospital said.

The deceased man was from Nirgudi village in Phaltan taluka of Satara district. He had developed influenza-like illness from December 24.

"Initially, he had fever and cough. Later, he developed high grade fever with breathlessness. He was admitted to KEM hospital in Rasta Peth on December 28. Despite medication, the man's condition kept worsening. He was also kept on ventilator support during the course of treatment," the doctor said.

Experts say that since the symptoms of swine flu are quite similar to common cold, people often don't take it seriously in the initial stages until it becomes critical.

"A swine flu patient usually suffers from a burning sore throat, abdominal pain and cough and the additional symptom of shortness of breath. These symptoms should not be dismissed and need to be treated under the supervision of a medical expert," infectious diseases expert Mahesh Lakhe of Columbia Asia Hospital in Kharadi said.

He recommended a quadruple flu vaccine shot before the flu season peaks, especially for those suffering from underlying medical conditions.

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