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H1N1 situation: no shortage of drugs says govt

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H1N1 situation: Govt says no shortage of drugs



With rise in number of swine flu cases and deaths reported across India, the health ministry in a high level meeting chaired by the health secretary, Mr B P Sharma took a review of the situation. Â So far, there are close to 670 persons reportedly dead due to H1N1 influenza virus and 10,000 positive cases.Â

The meeting that took place on February, 17, 2015, was also attended by the director general, Â health services, Â Dr Jagdish Prasad alongwith Dr G N Singh, Â drug controller general of India discussed the measures being taken to tackle the situation. Â It was attended by the representatives of various leading hospitals and Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). The state governments too took a part through video conferencing.Â

The availability of drugs, Â testing kits, Â diagnostic labs, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), masks etc is being continuously reviewed through video Â conferencing and telephonic means. Â As per health secretary, the states have not projected any need in this regard. All necessary and requested help is being provided to the states to augment their capacity. In case of need, labs under ICMR have been identified across the country to provide additional testing facilities. Also, Delhi has started a new testing facility at AIIMS. A 24 x7 Monitoring Cell is in operation at the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC). Â Teams of experts from the Health Ministry have visited states of Telangana, Gujarat and Rajasthan to extend technical support. Two such teams have been also sent to Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.Â

States have been asked to study the patterns in mortality such as which areas, age groups and section of people who have been affected, in addition to deaths due to morbid conditions. Â The guidelines framed by the Centre for vaccination of healthcare workers have been approved and provided to the states for dissemination.

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