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RML screens 101 in 24 hours

Risha Chittlangia | TNN

New Delhi: The total number of H1N1 influenza cases reported so far in the capital is 181, of which 164 have been treated and discharged.

Said Dr N K Chaturvedi, medical superintendent, RML Hospital, "In the last 24 hours, we have screened 101 people showing flu-like symptoms of which samples of 10 patients were taken and four admitted. We have converted the old casualty block into a H1N1 screening centre. Earlier, all patients landing up at the designated Ward 5 were being admitted as a precaution. But with so many people coming in for testing now, we have made a separate screening area and only the serious suspected cases will be admitted."

The screening centre at RML will be functional from Thursday. "We will maintain systematic records of all patients presenting mild or serious flu-like symptoms. Sample for testing would also be collected here. We have counsellors to guide family members of suspected patients who will be asked to stay in home quarantine, about the precautions to be taken," said Dr S K Sharma, CMO, RML hospital.

Private hospital too report a sharp increase in the rush at OPDs and say a majority of people were coming in with seasonal flu-like symptoms. "People know about the symptoms of H1N1 influenza, but they want to be reassured. Parents have been frantically calling up doctors even if their child has mild cold," said Dr Anupam Sibal, senior consultant paediatrician, Indraprastha Apollo Hospital.



ON HIGH ALERT: The screening centre at RML will be functional from Thursday

MCD steps up vigil in schools

New Delhi: After the swine flu death in Pune, Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has decided to take precautionary measures in its primary schools.

The civic agency is going to hold a meeting with deputy education officers of each zone on Thursday to work out details for preventing the spread of H1N1 influenza among students.

Said education committee chairman of MCD, Prithviraj Sawhney: "At present, we have one teacher in each of our 1,800 schools who are trained in administering first-aid and that teacher will be made responsible for looking out for children who show symptoms of swine flu. Student suspected of having contracted the flu will be taken to the nearest government hospital and parents will be informed about it. If the child tests positive, all the students of the same class will also be tested and the children will be given a week off."

"More than 10 lakh students study in municipal school and it is our responsibility to look after their safety. Till now, no such cases have been reported in MCD primary schools," said leader of the MCD house, Subhash Arya.

Meanwhile, RWAs of various areas have also stepped forward to spread awareness about H1N1 influenza and has asked that more centres for testing should be set up in the city. TNN

Dr Sibal added that there was no cause for panic. "In case a child shows strong flu-like symptom and has travelled abroad or has come in contact with a confirmed H1N1 influenza case, then he or she should be taken to the designated centres for testing," he said.

Meanwhile, experts say some basic precautions need to be taken. Said Dr Sisir Paul, senior consulting paediatrician, Max Healthcare, "Children are a vulnerable lot and parents should not take them to markets or public places in case they have flu-like symptoms. Even children with mild flu-like symptoms are coming to us. As the symptoms of H1N1 influenza mimic common flu, we are relying on contact history of the patient."

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