

Union Health Minister Shri JP Nadda Reviews H1N1 Influenza Preparedness; Emphasises Vigilance and Robust Surveillance

प्रविष्टि तिथि: 21 AUG 2026 4:10PM by PIB Delhi

Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Shri JP Nadda, today reviewed the prevailing situation and preparedness for **H1N1 Influenza** in the country, with particular focus on the National Capital. Delhi Health Minister Dr. Pankaj Kumar Singh also attended the meeting.



The Union Health Minister reviewed the **national surveillance and epidemiological situation**, Influenza-like illness (ILI) and Severe Acute Respiratory Infection (SARI) trends, testing and laboratory surveillance, and preparedness of healthcare facilities to manage seasonal influenza cases. Shri Nadda emphasised the need for **continued vigilance, robust surveillance and proactive preparedness**, with close monitoring of influenza trends and timely identification and management of any unusual increase or clustering of cases.

The preparedness of healthcare facilities in Delhi was reviewed, including the availability of hospital beds, critical care facilities, oxygen-supported beds, ventilators, essential medicines, diagnostics, and other critical supplies. The Minister stressed the importance of adequate surge capacity and seamless referral mechanisms, particularly for patients requiring specialised or critical care.



The Union Health Minister called for continued strengthening of **early detection, timely testing and appropriate clinical management** of influenza cases, along with effective utilisation of the existing surveillance and laboratory network.



Earlier, on **10th July 2026**, the Union Health Secretary had written to all States/UTs advising them to strengthen preparedness and surveillance for **Acute Respiratory Illness (ARI)** and ensure healthcare facilities remain adequately prepared.

Shri Nadda also emphasised **public awareness and preventive health practices**, including respiratory hygiene and hand hygiene, and advised individuals with persistent or severe respiratory symptoms, breathing difficulty or other warning signs to seek medical advice promptly.



The Union Health Minister reiterated that the situation is being closely and continuously monitored, while emphasising the need for sustained and coordinated efforts for the prevention and control of seasonal diseases, including Dengue and Malaria. Shri Nadda called for a **proactive and preparedness-oriented approach by State Governments**, with active participation of Municipal Councillors and other local bodies in generating awareness among communities on the prevention, spread and control of seasonal diseases.

Highlighting the increase in TB detection in the National Capital through the active involvement of local bodies and a **whole-of-government approach**, the Union Minister stressed the importance of active participation of public representatives at all levels in disseminating factual and evidence-based information and strengthening community engagement.

The Ministry continues to coordinate closely with States/UTs, hospitals, laboratories and other stakeholders to ensure effective surveillance, early detection, timely clinical management and proactive preparedness for seasonal influenza, including H1N1.

The meeting was also attended by Union Health Secretary Smt. Punya Salila Srivastava; Additional Secretary (Public Health) Dr. Rakesh Gupta; Delhi State Health Secretary Shri Rupesh Kumar Thakur and other senior officers.

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HFW/HFM chairs Review Meet on Influenza/21 August 2026/1

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