

Seqirus Media Monitoring

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News Highlights

Health minister orders new H1N1 strain vaccines The rising number of swine flu deaths has prompted the state health minister to order the procurement of the A/Michigan/ 45/2015 vaccine, for the new strain of the virus

H1N1 rises to six, peaks during monsoon period Myanmar has sought the help of the WHO due to the worsening H1N1 influenza outbreak sweeping the country and which has killed six people

Grantees, Reveal Thy Findings: A Push By Funders for Transparency in Medical Research Hidden evidence complicates decision-making by public health bodies: when, after a fight of several years, independent scientists finally got hold of all trial results for Tamiflu, they concluded that its benefits were close to zero, leading critics to contend that public funds had been squandered on an ineffective drug

Children in Italy have to be vaccinated or they can't go to school: government The Italian government has made it mandatory for children up to age 16 to be vaccinated in order to attend school, in an effort to combat misinformation about vaccines

Fears of mutant flu strain in HK spark concern here In Singapore, the Ministry of Health reported that the cases of acute respiratory infection seen in polyclinics had gone up from about 2,500 daily in the week of July 9 to about 3,300 daily in the week of July 16, which is consistent with trends previously observed

141 schools shut down in Dawei amid H5N1 outbreak A total of 141 schools have been shut down in Dawei, Myanmar, for 5 days due to the H5N1 outbreak in the area, a regional education official said

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No News Recorded

Pandemic Influenza News

Health minister orders new H1N1 strain vaccines

The rising number of swine flu deaths has prompted the state health minister to order the procurement of the A/Michigan/ 45/2015 vaccine, for the new strain of the virus

<http://punemirror.indiatimes.com/pune/civic/health-minister-orders-new-h1n1-strain-vaccines/articleshow/59814656.cms>

H1N1 rises to six, peaks during monsoon period

Myanmar has sought the help of the WHO due to the worsening H1N1 influenza outbreak sweeping the country and which has killed six people

<http://www.mmtimes.com/index.php/national-news/yangon/26999-h1n1-rises-to-six-peaks-during-monsoon-period.html>

Swine flu: At PGI, precautions only for docs, not patients

In Chandigarh, the PGI has started vaccinating its doctors and staff to contain the spread of swine flu, but patients visiting outpatient departments continue to be at risk from the virus

www.tribuneindia.com/news/chandigarh/swine-flu-at-pgi-precautions-only-for-docs-not-patients/444252.html

Overcrowding in Hong Kong hospitals eases with 1,000 fewer patients daily in past week

Overcrowding at emergency wards in public hospitals in Hong Kong has eased in the past week, but

a respiratory expert said it was still too early to reach a conclusion and urged the public to remain vigilant over a new dominant flu virus

<http://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/health-environment/article/2104593/overcrowding-hong-kong-hospitals-stabilises-1000>

Industry News

Roche reports strong performance in the first half of 2017

Sales in the Pharmaceuticals Division at Roche increased 5% to CHF 20.5 billion, but this increase was partially offset by lower sales of Tarceva, Tamiflu and Pegasys

<http://www.finchannel.com/business/161-pharmacy/66944-roche-reports-strong-performance-in-the-first-half-of-2017>

Grantees, Reveal Thy Findings: A Push By Funders for Transparency in Medical Research

Hidden evidence complicates decision-making by public health bodies: when, after a fight of several years, independent scientists finally got hold of all trial results for Tamiflu, they concluded that its benefits were close to zero, leading critics to contend that public funds had been squandered on an ineffective drug

<https://www.insidephilanthropy.com/home/2017/7/28/transparency-clinical-trials-gates-welcome>

Academic studies

Scientists reel in structure of salmon virus

The structure of a protein key to the survival and spread of a virus that affects salmon could help researchers form strategies to treat the flu in humans

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2017/07/170728100840.htm>

Getting Shots May Soon Be a Thing of the Past as Band-Aid Patch Replaces Flu Vaccine

A team of U.S. researchers have come up with a way to deliver the flu vaccine using a Band-Aid-like sticky patch with 100 microneedles that painlessly dissolve into the skin to release the vaccine

<http://www.newsweek.com/flu-shots-become-thing-past-band-aid-patches-643798>

Additional sources: (Yahoo News)

Pediatric influenza news

Italian parliament approves contested vaccine program

In Italy, children under 16 are to be vaccinated before enrolling in nurseries, kindergartens and primary schools

<http://aa.com.tr/en/europe/italian-parliament-approves-contested-vaccine-program/871676>

Don't forget! Saturday is vaccination day

There will be 4,000 vaccination points across Colombia on Saturday where children under 6 years old will be able to be immunised for free in order to bring their vaccinations up to date

<https://www.minuto30.com/recuerde-este-sabado-habra-jornada-nacional-de-vacunacion/446990/>

Children in Italy have to be vaccinated or they can't go to school: government

The Italian government has made it mandatory for children up to age 16 to be vaccinated in order to attend school, in an effort to combat misinformation about vaccines

<http://globalnews.ca/news/3464613/italy-vaccination-children-school/>

Additional sources: (U.S. News & World Report) (Romper) (9news.com.au) (Wired Italia) (Leonardo.it) (Firenze Post) (Investir Oggi) (Avvenire.it) (Quotidiano Sanita)

Cuba on Vaccination Campaign Against Seasonal Flu

The vaccination campaign against seasonal flu has begun throughout Cuba, aimed at children under two years of age, pregnant women and people over 75 years old, among other vulnerable groups

plenglish.com/index.php?o=rn&id=16134&SEO=cuba-vaccinating-against-seasonal-flu

Anger as Charlestown community centre The Place screens film linking vaccines with autism

Health authorities and a Lake Macquarie councillor whose son is on the autism spectrum have slammed a decision to screen a film linking vaccines with autism at a Charlestown community centre in Australia

<http://www.theherald.com.au/story/4821385/anti-vaxxed-anger-at-charlestown-film-screening/>

Over 65's influenza news

Aging gracefully - happiness matters

Advice for aging better includes taking advantage of vaccines, as the flu vaccine will not eliminate your chance of contracting influenza, but it may lessen the severity of the flu

<http://www.newsindiatimes.com/aging-gracefully-happiness-matters>

Woman dies of swine flu in Surat, 8 more tested positive

A 70-year-old woman died of swine flu and eight others were tested positive in Surat, India, in the last two days

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/woman-dies-of-swine-flu-in-surat-8-more-tested-positive-4773558/>

Additional sources: (Times of India)

General Influenza News

Does Tamiflu really work in checking swine flu?

Family members of patients have also contracted swine flu despite being given Tamiflu, but doctors say that it is given to close contacts so as to curtail the growth of the virus further, if it has already entered a body

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/lucknow/does-tamiflu-really-work-in-checking-swine-flu/articleshow/59817256.cms>

Deadly swine flu claims more victims as the virus takes on alarming proportions in Delhi

In Delhi, five people have recently died of swine flu and dozens are still fighting the deadly virus, which broke out during the monsoon

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/delhi-swine-flu-rml-hospital-aiims/1/1013845.html>

Additional sources: (Daily Mail)

23-year-old pregnant woman succumbs to swine flu in Hyderabad's Gandhi Hospital

In India, a 23-year-old pregnant woman died due to complications resulting from swine flu at Hyderabad's Gandhi Hospital on Saturday

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/hyderabad/pregnant-woman-dies-of-swine-flu/articleshow/59828474.cms>

Additional sources: (The Hindu) (Telangana Today) (The News Minute)

New vaccination rules in place ahead of school year

This spring, the Pennsylvania Department of Health put forth a new rule requiring students be up to date on all vaccinations by day five of the school year

<http://abc27.com/2017/07/27/new-vaccination-rules-in-place-ahead-of-school-year/>

Record high vaccination rates of 7th-graders reported in first year of stricter requirements

Vaccination rates for California 7th-graders reached their highest recorded levels, the California Department of Public Health reported, in another sign that a stricter vaccination law is having an effect in its first year

<https://edsources.org/2017/record-high-vaccination-rates-of-7th-graders-reported-in-first-year-of-stricter-requirements/584781>

CDC reports 11 H3N2v flu cases linked to Ohio fair

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported 11 variant H3N2 (H3N2v) influenza infections in Ohio residents who were exposed to pigs at a fair the week before they got sick
<http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2017/07/cdc-reports-11-h3n2v-flu-cases-linked-ohio-fair>

Orange's Cherrywood Grove nursing home restricts visitors after influenza outbreak

In Australia, an influenza outbreak led Cherrywood Grove nursing home to restrict access to visitors on July 21

<http://www.centralwesterndaily.com.au/story/4819514/cherrywood-grove-nursing-home-restricts-visitors-after-influenza-outbreak/>

Four doctors suffering from swine flu, PGIMER takes steps to stop disease spread on campus in Chandigarh

Finding its own doctors suffering from swine flu, the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research in India has started taking measures to prevent the possible spread of the disease on campus

<http://indianexpress.com/article/chandigarh/four-doctors-suffering-from-swine-flu-pgimer-takes-steps-to-stop-disease-spread-on-campus-4772280/>

6 more, including PGI employee, test positive for swine flu in Lucknow

In Lucknow, India, a senior employee of the nursing college of Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences was among six from the city who tested positive for swine flu on Friday

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/lucknow/6-more-including-pgi-employee-test-positive-for-swine-flu-in-lucknow/articleshow/59816922.cms>

Dawei child patients not infected with flu

Three children near the poultry farm in Dawei, Myanmar, at the centre of the bird flu outbreak suffered from severe illness but were not infected, according to the regional hospital

<http://www.elevenmyanmar.com/local/10772>

One of the swine flu victims died on Thursday

Two fresh cases of swine flu were reported from Ghaziabad, India, taking the total number of confirmed cases to seven in the district

<http://www.dnaindia.com/delhi/report-one-of-the-swine-flu-victims-died-on-thursday-2516409>

Swine flu death: Medical team from Capital begins inspection in Syangja

A medical team from Kathmandu arrived in Waling for field inspection after a man from Syangja, who was tested positive for the A (H1N1) virus died at the TU Teaching Hospital

<http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2017-07-30/medical-team-from-capital-begins-inspection-in-syangja.html>

Swine flu claims 10 in rural areas since January

The rural areas of the Kolhapur district have been witnessing the spread of swine flu as 10 people have died from the disease so far this month

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kolhapur/swine-flu-claims-10-in-rural-areas-since-jan/articleshow/59829495.cms>

Local health officials stress child vaccinations as school approaches

The Alabama Department of Public Health reminds all parents to make sure their children are current with their immunizations

http://www.dothaneagle.com/news/local/local-health-officials-stress-child-vaccinations-as-school-approaches/article_01f64cda-7307-11e7-9bd0-bf7b76617c61.html

Gold Coasters warned to get vaccinated and change diet as influenza season starts to

gear up

Peak influenza season has yet to arrive on the Gold Coast of Australia with doctors urging locals there is still time to get their flu vaccines

www.goldcoastbulletin.com.au/news/sun-community/gold-coasters-warned-to-get-vaccinated-and-change-diet-as-influenza-season-starts-to-gear-up/news-story/f18ae1c9edf6e026ef63c3bece9f7b37

Burden of disease

Fears of mutant flu strain in HK spark concern here

In Singapore, the Ministry of Health reported that the cases of acute respiratory infection seen in polyclinics had gone up from about 2,500 daily in the week of July 9 to about 3,300 daily in the week of July 16, which is consistent with trends previously observed

<http://m.todayonline.com/singapore/no-change-singapores-flu-outbreak-trends-experts-caution-against-h3n2-strain>

141 schools shut down in Dawei amid H5N1 outbreak

A total of 141 schools have been shut down in Dawei, Myanmar, for 5 days due to the H5N1 outbreak in the area, a regional education official said

<http://www.mmtimes.com/index.php/national-news/26997-141-schools-closed-dawei.html>