

# Facing shortage, govt expedites procurement of swine flu drug

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**New Delhi:** The health ministry has ordered faster procurement of diagnostic kits, medicines and vaccines for H1N1 influenza to deal with the sudden spurt in the number of swine flu cases across the country.

Many retailers, licensed to sell the drug and vaccine, have run out of stock as demand has surged significantly in the past few weeks with increasing number of people testing positive for H1N1 influenza, creating panic among patients and their kin.

Though the anti-viral medicine Oseltamivir is available in most government-run hospitals, private hospitals and retail drug stores have been facing a severe

their lives to swine flu across the country in the first ten days of February as the death toll due to the contagious disease escalated to 407 this year. While Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Telangana have witnessed most number of deaths, Karnataka and Delhi have also registered significant number of H1N1 cases.

Experts said patients with common cold and cough but with no fever are increasingly testing positive for H1N1 influenza, which is normally not the case. The latest health ministry data said 5,157 cases of the disease have been reported till February 10 this year alone.

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shortage in the past one week.  
As many as 216 people have lost

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