



HEALTH

KwaZulu-Natal

CORPORATE COMMUNICATION

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TO: ALL MEDIA

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EMBARGO: NONE

STATEMENT BY THE KZN MEC FOR HEALTH, DR. S. M. DHLOMO, ON THE RECENT REPORTS ON THE H1N1

Good afternoon,

Ladies and Gentlemen

We, as the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health, have been receiving numerous calls from members of the media, enquiring about the recent developments pertaining to the H1N1 outbreak. It is on the basis of these enquiries that I have taken a decision to call for this urgent media briefing.

According to the recent reports that we have received from the National Institute of Communicable diseases (NICD), there is a total of 42 confirmed cases of HINI flu and one (1) suspected case of H1N1 Flu. Unfortunately this patient that was suspected died yesterday at Mount Edgecombe Hospital in Durban. At the time of this report, we are still awaiting confirmatory results from the NICD.

The patient was a 44-year old male from Phoenix. He visited Swaziland with two (2) friends, left on 27 June 2009 - returned on the 29 June 2009. He got sick on the 16 July 2009 with flu-like symptoms like: cough, diarrhea, tight chest, body pain & sore throat. Seen by the General Practitioner on the 22 July 2009, where he presented with flu-like symptoms. He was given medication for flu. He returned to the doctor on the 24 July 2009 feeling sick, with body pains, dehydration and not improved. He was then referred to Mount Edgecombe Hospital on the 24 July 2009 where he was admitted, condition deteriorated and he subsequently died on the 30 July 2009. At no time were the doctors informed of any travel history until after his death. PCR test results were positive (received after the patient died) from Lancet Lab. We are awaiting the confirmation of results from the NICD.

The family of the deceased has been traced and they are healthy with no signs of H1N1. We are following up on the other workplace contacts as well as any other contacts that were in close proximity with the deceased.

At this point in time we urge the public to take all the precautionary measures which include regular washing of hands with a detergent, proper cough and sneezing hygiene and also seeking medical attention when feeling unwell. We have also sensitised our fellow clinicians to raise the index of suspicion when dealing with the patients.

uMnyango Wezempilo . Departement van Gesondheid

Fighting Disease, Fighting Poverty, Giving Hope

LAB CONFIRMED CASES IN KZN PER DISTRICT: AS OF THE 5 AUGUST 2009

District	Town/city	Number
Ethekwini	Durban	11
Ethekwini	Durban – death	1
Ugungundlovu	Pietermaritzburg	24
Uthungulu	Empangeni/ Richards Bay	5
Ilembe	Ballito	1
Ugu	Pennington	1
Total		42

ENDS!!!

ISSUED BY: KZN MEC FOR HEALTH, DR. S. M. DHLOMO