

Swine flu outbreak in India kills 12: govt

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Twelve people have died from swine flu in India since the beginning of March and nearly 110 others have been infected with the virus, the country's health ministry said.

The ministry announced in a statement late on Thursday that the victims were from the western states of Maharashtra and Rajasthan as well as southern Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.

"The government is taking all necessary steps to curb the spread of <u>influenza</u> A (H1N1) virus across the country," <u>health ministry</u> spokeswoman S. Sharan in New Delhi told AFP.

"The states where cases had been reported have been advised to step up surveillance to control the further spread of the virus," she said.

More than 500 people died from <u>swine flu</u> in India and more than 14,000 people tested positive in 2009.

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