

Brazil: Swine flu has killed twice as many people as in 2015

April 5 2016

Brazil's Health Ministry said Tuesday that the H1N1 swine flu virus has killed almost twice as many people in Latin America's biggest country over the past three months as it did in all of 2015.

The ministry said the illness caused 71 deaths between January and March of this year, compared to 36 in 2015.

Of the 71 deaths, 55 were in the state of Sao Paulo, which accounted for 372 of the 444 cases registered in the first three months of the year.

The swine flu outbreak comes as Brazil prepares to host the Olympics in August and struggles with the worst recession in decades and a sprawling corruption investigation at state-owned oil company Petrobras. Nationwide outbreaks of Zika, dengue and chikungunya have also hit Brazil.

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