

Vaccination against H1N1 to begin by April 8

50,000 health workers from across State to be vaccinated

BANGALORE: The health department is planning to begin their vaccination procedures against Influenza A (H1N1) by April 8 in all taluk and district level hospitals in the State.

Dr Vasudeva Murthy, Deputy Director, State Surveillance Unit, said the entire vaccination process will be conducted during April 8, 9 and 10 and nearly 50,000 health workers are expected to get vaccinated. "Once we start the vaccination procedure, we should ideally complete it within three days," he said.

Health workers from government colleges and hospitals; private medical colleges and hospitals from all over the State have been roped in to conduct the vaccination process.

Dr H Paramesh, Managing Director of Lakeside Medical Centre and Hospital, said the



vaccination procedure for health workers in his hospital will start in another two or three days. "Once we receive the vaccines, health workers including staff working in the ICU, isolation wards and lab technicians will be vaccinated," he said.

BBMP health department has been considered as the

nodal centre and vaccination will be conducted in the same manner as polio or BCG immunisation drive.

The State government has procured 1,24,200 doses (around 60,000 vials) of Panenza vaccine, manufactured by Sanofi Pasteur, from the Central government recently.

Private practitioners

Since health workers will be vaccinated on priority, one of the major concerns will be to vaccinate the general practitioners who have played a vital role in diagnosing the flu.

"As of now the stocks that we have is for the health workers in government and a few private hospitals. There could be a possible demand from the private practitioners too. However we will have to seek for more vaccines from the Central government shortly," said Dr Murthy.

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