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## Swine flu vaccine months away: Roxon

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A vaccine to counter human swine flu is still some months away, federal Health Minister Nicola Roxon says.

At least 50 cases of A(H1N1) virus have been confirmed in Australia, and more are expected.

Those affected are being treated with anti-virals such as Tamiflu, but there is no specific vaccine for the swine flu yet.

Australian vaccine producer CSL says it will be able to start production of its test vaccines next week, and anticipates starting manufacture in June with the first batches of vaccine being available in late July or early August.

"My latest advice is we are several months from having a vaccine, but our researchers are moving into the next phases," Ms Roxon told ABC2 Television.

"But it is a complicated process and it still will be several months down the track,"

"It's why every week that we can delay this disease spreading more widely in the community is buying us more time when we'll have this vaccine to treat it."

It comes as the outbreak begins to stretch hospitals to the limit. Robina Hospital on the Gold Coast has set up a special swine flu clinic, with patients sitting on the floor waiting to be treated.

In Melbourne, a fast food restaurant has been closed after a worker tested positive for the virus.

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