

Pregnant swine flu patients fighting for life

ABC - July 16

Pregnant women are among those fighting for their lives after contracting swine flu. Health authorities in New South Wales are now urging expectant mothers to take extra care - and go to their doctors early if they have flu symptoms.

Three pregnant swine flu patients in New South Wales are in intensive care.

Two women with swine flu have given birth prematurely, one of those patients is also in intensive care.

Dr Jeremy McAnulty from NSW Health says the outbreak may seem alarming, but is within the range of what was expected by health experts.

"Because there's a lack of immunity in the community to this particular strain of influenza that would expect to see more people coming down with it," he said.

Dr McAnulty says the peak of the outbreak is yet to come.

"We do expect influenza to go on throughout winter," he said.

Health Authorities says people who are sick should stay at home, and good hygiene practices should be followed in public spaces.