

What happened to the number of Swine Flu deaths?

If I remember correctly wasn't the number of deaths due to swine flu in Mexico something close to 150 people? No, in fact on the 29th of April 2009 a number of media agencies stated that the **official** death toll was in fact 159. From the BBC to CNN it seemed that the numbers that were succumbing to swine flu were growing rapidly.

Now the number of deaths is less than half that amount, what happened? Is there something going on the background that we should be privy to?

This strikes of a swine flu cover up.

The official explanation for this unusual disparity is that the initial reports were only suspected cases. But what made these cases suspect in the first place? Did these 159 unfortunate Mexicans die of respiratory disease or not? Apparently, Mexico doesn't have the facilities to isolate and confirm cases of swine flu. Samples have to be sent to the United States to be verified and confirmed.

If that's the case how could such a furor have been stirred up about something that wasn't real at the time? Before the media got on the swine flu bandwagon shouldn't someone have verified the numbers?

The media sold us the idea the 159 swine flu deaths as fact. So many deaths so quickly, its mortality to infection rate was comparable to those of earlier virulent influenza pandemics (at the time there were 2500 reported cases which gave swine flu a mortality rate of 6.4%).

Things have settled down since, but is there a lesson to be learnt here? Should such scaremongering be allowed by the media? We should be told the facts more honestly with no embellishments and no omissions. Emphasis should have been placed on the fact that the information had not been verified. It might have even been more prudent if the media didn't speculate on the number of deaths at all.

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