

DATELINE PHILIPPINES

No proof virus spreading in sustained way

by AMANDO DORONILLA
Inquirer.net

THE World Health Organization (WHO) said last May 3 "there's no evidence that the swine flu virus is spreading in a sustained way outside North America."

Dr. Michael Ryan, WHO director of Global Alert, made the assessment even as Mexican officials said the epidemic appeared to be easing but urged citizens not to let their guard down against a virus that has killed 17 people and is spreading across Asia and Europe.

Ryan said Mexico had cut the death toll, indicating the outbreak may not be as bad as initially feared. Health Minister Jose Angel Cordova said that based on samples tested, there was "no evidence of sustained community spread outside North America."

But Ryan cautioned against complacency. "I think it would be at this stage unwise to suggest that in any way, those events are out of control, or spreading in an uncontrolled fashion. I think the

next few days will tell as this develops," he said. This assessment came after the WHO raised its six-tier pandemic

Experts warned the virus could mutate and come back with a vengeance. WHO raised its six-tier pandemic

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