

COVID-19 strikes Swedish care home despite vaccination

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STOCKHOLM, Jan. 28 (Xinhua) -- Ten cases of COVID-19 have been confirmed among residents at a Swedish care home despite that they have completed a two-dose vaccination, reported Swedish daily Dagens Nyheter.

The virus was believed to have entered the care home in Sweden's second-largest city Gothenburg via employees, as five staff members were also confirmed infected.

The residents were given the first dose of the vaccine from Pfizer-BioNTech on Dec. 27, 2020 and the second one on Jan. 19. Lab tests confirmed on Tuesday that they had contracted the disease, the report said.

"We do not know when these people were infected. Some of them have mild symptoms, but we noticed it sometime after the weekend. They might have been infected before the vaccine started to protect (them)," Babbs Edberg, the city's director of care and welfare for the elderly, told Dagens Nyheter on Thursday.

Swedish Public Health Agency said that every Swede should be inoculated by the end of June and the elderly have been identified as a prioritized group. Yet other groups like healthcare staff caring for vulnerable patients can also be given a priority for vaccination if needed.

However, due to problems with vaccine deliveries, the European Union is expected to receive considerably fewer vaccine doses from AstraZeneca than planned.

For Swedish part, it is believed that AstraZeneca can only deliver 400,000 doses in February, far less than the 1 million target agreed upon previously, Swedish Television reported on Wednesday.

As the world is struggling to contain the pandemic, vaccination is underway in some countries with the already-authorized coronavirus vaccines.

Meanwhile, 236 candidate vaccines are being developed -- 63 of them in clinical trials -- in countries including Germany, China, Russia, Britain and the United States, according to the World Health Organization. Enditem



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