

## EDITOR'S NOTE

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Dear Readers,

They say that public memory is short and that is what I have observed with the swine flu issue in Mumbai. Initially most Mumbaikars wore masks and swine-flu became the most feared and most discussed issue around us. However, over a period of time the 'never-say-die' attitude of the average Mumbaikar has once again resurfaced in a few parts of the city. Most people are not using masks nor taking the necessary precautionary measures to avoid this disease. This worries me, because it is when all defenses are low that an epidemic can strike.

A walk down the Bandra streets would reveal the number of used masks strewn on the footpath. I shudder to think what if any of those masks were actually used by carriers of the virus?

While blaming the Government at such times would be the most cliched thing to do, the Friday team wishes to compliment the Government on its efforts to curb the disease. However, though the efforts are commendable it is only desirable that stricter measures be implemented with respect to preventive actions by citizens. Traditionally, Lord Ganesha is revered as the God of Salvation and his entry into the lives of the devotees earmarks the end of all sorrows. The Friday team wondered if the swine flu scare would mar the festivities this time around.

This issue is dedicated to the spirit of Ganesha lovers in Mumbai who are gearing up to welcome the *Vignaharta* into their homes and lives once again.

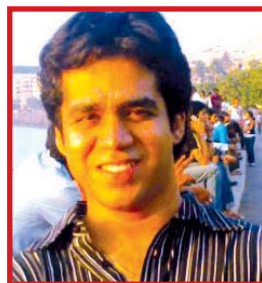
***Ganapati Bappa Morya!***

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# Is the Mumbaikar worried?

With several discussions and information bits on swine flu prevention, we wonder whether the average Mumbaikar feels informed or worried. The Friday Team asked residents of Mumbai how the swine flu panic directly affected them and whether they still live in fear.



Life goes on, unnecessary panic is being created. I am not worried.

Kapil Shah, 25

I am not scared of swine flu as I don't think it will affect me because I don't go to public places or travel by train or bus.

Apinita Hazarika, 25



People are very scared because of swine flu and the related deaths. However, recent media reports say it is not difficult to prevent it. This makes me feel better.

Amey Tilak, 22

Earlier, I was worried because it was spreading fast but after taking the precautions I found one can fight against this disease.

Pooja Oak, 22



I am scared of catching the swine flu and I worry when I see people reusing the mask despite expert advice that the mask is useless if it is used for over 4 hours.

Anir Thakker, 33

My parents forced me to wear the mask and even grounded me for a few days.

Sonam Gupta, 22

