Authorities in Germany are investigating whether a swine flu inoculation caused the death of a man.

Some 19 people have so far died of the virus in Germany as the country-wide vaccination process gathers momentum.

But in Thuringia, officials are looking into a mysterious death.

A 55-year-old man was inoculated against the disease hours before he died in his house on Friday night, according to the ‘Thüringer Allgemeine’ newspaper.

Thuringian Health Minister Heike Taubert told the paper that a possible link between the injection and the death was being investigated.

Meanwhile, the Robert Koch Institute has reported that the H1N1 virus is still spreading across Germany.

The number of new infections each week has risen to 15,000 laboratory-confirmed cases.

Johannes Löwer, president of the Paul Ehrlicher Institute, said he had received almost 60 messages about side effects during the mass inoculation against swine flu.

At least two cases reported a life-threatening anaphylactic shock.

A 46-year-old man from Wuppertal and a 65-year-old woman from Thuringia also died after being inoculated, although whether there is a link has not yet been established.

And five victims died after receiving the vaccine in Sweden, although they had all been suffering from chronic illnesses beforehand.

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