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US porn movie industry shut down by HIV scare

LOS ANGELES: More US adult film companies are suspending production after a porn actor tested HIV positive, in a growing scare gripping the multi-billion dollar porn movie industry here.

At least two more pornographic movie makers said they had stopped filming, following two major producers on Wednesday who suspended shoots as doctors scrambled to check if anyone else has been infected.

Meanwhile, the clinic at the centre of the scare – which comes six years after up to 14 actors tested HIV positive forcing several film firms to close – said it would take up to two weeks to say who else might have been infected.

On Wednesday Vivid Entertainment and Wicked Pictures, based in the San Fernando Valley north of Los Angeles, the home of lucrative adult movie industry, announced they were suspending production.

On Thursday they were joined by Hustler Video and Digital Playground, and more were expected to follow suit.

The infected actor was male and was believed to have been infected on a movie set where checks are made regularly.

The HIV case, the first in more than a year in the lucrative industry based in the San Fernando valley north of LA, has fuelled calls for film companies to force actors in their movies to use condoms. — AFP