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Media alert from the Media Scanning & Verification Cell, IDSP-NCDC.

Alert ID	Publication Date	Reporting Date	Place Name	News Source/Publication Language
7367	20.04.2023	21.04.2023	Bihar	www.timesofindia.com/English https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/patna/state-in-alert-mode-after-aes-cases-rise-this-month/articleshowprint/99628296.cms
Title:	Bihar in alert mode after acute encephalitis syndrome cases rise this month			
Action By CSU, IDSP -NCDC	Information communicated to DSU- Muzaffarpur, SSU- Bihar			

The state government has put all government health centres across the state on alert mode with the reporting of six fresh cases of acute encephalitis syndrome (AES) in April, which accounts for 50% of the total 12 cases registered this year. However, no death due to AES has been reported in the state so far.

As per the data shared by Muzaffarpur district administration, of the total 12 cases registered till April 18 this year, two cases were reported in January, one case in February. Besides, three AES cases were registered on March 30, followed by six other cases in April. The break-up shows that of the total AES cases, 10 were from Muzaffarpur, one each from East Champaran and Sitamarhi districts.

A high-level meeting was also called by the chief secretary Amir Subhani in this regard on Tuesday. In the meeting, he instructed health officials concerned to ensure availability of doctors at all government health centres at night.

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Disclaimer:- This is a media alert subject to verification.

Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP), National Centre for Disease Control,
Ministry Of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India

22-Sham Nath Marg, Delhi – 110 054

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He further asked health centres to keep paediatric intensive care unit ready and be on alert mode.

“A massive awareness campaign has helped in curbing the number of AES cases and zero deaths so far. Asha workers, Jeevika didis, Vikas mitras or officials of integrated child development services, all have been roped in the awareness related work. The stress is now on ensuring that a child does not sleep empty stomach and in case of any symptoms, he is rushed to the hospital immediately,” said Dr Satish Kumar, nodal incharge for AES.

Muzaffarpur-based noted pediatrician Dr Arun Shah, who along with noted virologist of the country Dr Jacob Jhon, had done research on the AES cases in the region said, “One thing should be clear that AES is not a disease, rather a triad under which if a child is suffering from fever, seizure or loss of consciousness, he can be categorized as AES patient. The cause can be bacterial and viral infections or the non-infectious too.”

Talking about the AES in terms of the district in the north Bihar like Muzaffarpur, Dr Shah said, “Malnutrition is one of the major reasons with consumption of rotten fruits. The majority of AES cases I have seen are with acute hypoglycemia encephalopathy, a condition of extremely low blood sugar. The sugar level is found either zero, 10 or 15, and after 10% dextrose infusion, the child became normal.”

He added that the period from April 15 to June beginning was the most crucial.

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