



सत्यमेव जयते
Government of India



Media Scanning & Verification Cell



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

Alert ID	Publication Date	Reporting Date	Place Name	News Source/Publication Language
5274	16.05.2019	16.05.2019	Malappuram Kerala	The Hindu English Newspaper 16 th May, 2019/Page No. 05
Title:	Source of Malappuram fever still elusive, Kerala			
Action By CSU, IDSP -NCDC	Information communicated to DSU-Malappuram, SSU-Kerala			

Five died between March and May in different parts of the district

The Health Department is striving to identify the genesis of a fever outbreak in different parts of Malappuram district that claimed five lives between March and May second week.

Over 60 people had symptoms of encephalitis or inflammation of the brain, and around 20 had symptoms of meningitis or inflammation of the meninges, the three membranes lining the skull and vertebral canal and enclosing the brain and the spinal cord. A few encephalitis cases were reported from Kozhikode district too during the period.

Sources in the department told The Hindu that the first patient to be affected and the cause of the infection were yet to be identified. At least 10 of these cases were referred to the Government Medical College Hospital, Kozhikode, only after their condition worsened. Headache, fever, muscle pain, disorientation, and vomiting were the common symptoms noticed. Some had body fatigue and dizziness.

Save Water- Save Life, Save a tree- Don't print unless it's really necessary!

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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The presence of an entero virus, which is transmitted through the intestine, was reportedly confirmed in the cerebrospinal fluid of one of the patients when tested at the virology lab attached to the Government Medical College, Alappuzha. Encephalitis and myocarditis, inflammation of the heart muscles, are some of its manifestations.

Sources pointed out that the symptoms of some patients were structurally similar to that of Japanese Encephalitis. However, it is yet to be confirmed whether the infection was caused by a virus or a bacteria, or the combined effect of both of them. More samples would have to be sent for lab tests to have a clear idea.

The post-mortem examination reports of the deceased too should be made available, they added. It is learnt that the body fluid samples of the patients could not be sent on time as they were initially admitted to private hospitals.

Criticism

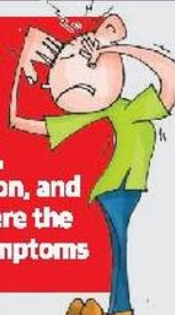
Meanwhile, the department has been accused of being lax in forming a team containing experts in epidemiology, virology, bacteriology and community medicine. A senior Health Department official, who wished not to be quoted, said the National Institute of Virology and the National Centre for Disease Control too should be informed for better coordination. However, V. Meenakshi, Additional Director, Health Services, told The Hindu on Wednesday that encephalitis was normally spread by mosquitoes and the department would launch an eradication drive in the coming days with the help of local bodies.

Warning Bells

60-odd people had symptoms of inflammation of the brain and around 20 had symptoms of inflammation of the meninges

- The presence of entero virus, transmitted through the intestine, was 'confirmed in the cerebrospinal fluid of a patient'
- The symptoms of some patients were structurally similar to those of Japanese Encephalitis
- A few encephalitis cases were reported from Kozhikode too during the period

SYMPTOMS
Headache, fever, muscle pain, disorientation, and vomiting were the common symptoms



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