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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
5952	23.08.2020	28.08.2020	Bareilly Uttar Pradesh	www.timesofindia.com/English https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bareilly/sharp-rise-in-cases-of-killer-pf-malaria-strain-in-bareilly/articleshowprint/77696433.cms
Title:	Sharp rise in cases of 'killer' PF malaria strain in Bareilly			
Action By CSU, IDSP -NCDC	Information communicated to DSU- Bareilly , SSU- Uttar Pradesh			

Bareilly has reported a sharp increase in cases of plasmodium falciparum (PF), the "killer" strain of malaria, as 435 people have been infected this month, up from 11 cases in July. Only 152 PF cases were reported between January and July. Officials said of the total 435 PF cases reported in August, nearly 20% cases are of relapse as the patients didn't complete a full course of treatment last year and were carrying malaria parasites in the body.

According to the latest data compiled by health department, Bareilly reported a total of 1,314 malaria cases in August. Of these, 879 are plasmodium vivax (PV), a common variant of malaria, and 435 PF. In July, 853 malaria cases were reported and of these, 11 were PF.

District malaria officer D R Singh said the transmission of malaria is usually at its peak from August to mid-October.

Chief medical officer (CMO) Dr Vineet Shukla said, "In monsoon, the malaria cases

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**Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP), National Centre for Disease Control,
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go up due to mosquito breeding. We have been conducting active case surveillance by sending our teams to affected villages to screen suspected cases. We are conducting preventive measures, including spraying of pyrethrum and larvicidal, and conducting indoor residual spray and fogging in villages which have been reporting cases."

Experts said a patient tested positive for PF malaria has to undergo a three-day treatment while a patient with PV malaria has to complete a 14-day course.

"However, many patients leave the medication halfway after a few doses. These patients then carry malaria parasites in their blood. We have learnt through our ASHA workers and patients that nearly 20% of the total 435 PF cases reported this month are due to relapse," Singh added.

Last year, health workers visited houses of PF patients daily to ensure that they complete treatment. PV patients are covered by health workers in first, third, seventh and 14th days of treatment. "We have directed ASHA workers to visit the houses of malaria patients to ensure radical treatment," the CMO added.

Bareilly has reported a malaria outbreak in the past two years. Though only 271 people tested positive for malaria in Bareilly in 2017, the number of cases drastically increased to 37,482 in 2018, and 46,717 in 2019.

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