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

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| 7190 | 11.01.2023 | 12.01.2023 | Bhojpur Bihar | www.timesofindia.com/English https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/patna/2-kids- die-due-to-suspected-measles-in-bhojpur- district/articleshowprint/96897364.cms |
| Title: | 2 kids die due to suspected measles in Bhojpur district, Bihar | | | |
| Action By CSU, IDSP –NCDC | Information communicated to DSU- Bhojpur, SSU- Bihar | | | |

Two children of a Mahadalit hamlet died due to suspected measles in Bhojpur district last week while at least seven others were undergoing treatment at Ara Sadar Hospital on Tuesday.

State health society executive director Sanjay Kumar Singh said both the deaths were suspected cases of measles. Singh said a medical team camped there and was administering children with an additional dose of measles-rubella vaccines.

Three children were admitted to Sadar hospital on Tuesday, while four others had been brought there on Monday after suspected outbreak of measles in Nagri village under Charpokhari block of Bhojpur district. Measles is a viral infection which mainly affects children.

Additional chief medical officer (ACMO) at Sadar hospital Ara, Dr K N Sinha, told this newspaper on Tuesday: "Charpokhari PHC in-charge medical officer informed us on Monday about the outbreak of measles. Three teams, including the one headed by myself and another the WHO, rushed to the affected area and started health check-

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

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up. But many of the affected children's parents either did not reveal or showed hesitancy in getting their children admitted to hospital. After lots of persuasion, we were able to get four children admitted."

On January 6-7, the two children - Pramod Kumar (2), son of Ashok Musahar and Khushi Kumari (3), daughter of late Arjun Musahar, died after showing symptoms similar to measles. Sources said their parents took them to a charmer (ojha) instead of hospital for the treatment, which led to their death. Both the deceased were cremated without informing either the health officials or the local police. So, we cannot ascribe the exact reason of their death, the ACMO said.

He added: "A health camp of 10 ANMs has been set up in the affected hamlet and samples of the affected children have been sent to the PMCH."

Bhojpur DM Raj Kumar said the deaths took place some five days back, after which they had put a camp in the area and vaccinated the children. "We are sending our team to neighbouring areas, too, to take stock of the situation," he said, adding three children had been shifted to the Sadar hospital for treatment and nearly 10 to 12 were found to be infected. When asked if these children had missed their routine immunization, the DM replied, "That will be clear after the inspection."

An official said the parents were not ready for the vaccination as they had expressed their faith in a local ojha. "We had to use police force and threatened the ojha with legal action. Then only the parents agreed for medical aid," he said.

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