



# 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
6387	27.10.2021	27.10.2021	Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh	www.timesofindia.com/English <a href="https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/noida/who-reports-13-diphtheria-nine-measles-cases-in-ghaziabad/articleshowprint/87290816.cms">https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/noida/who-reports-13-diphtheria-nine-measles-cases-in-ghaziabad/articleshowprint/87290816.cms</a>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>WHO reports 13 diphtheria, nine measles cases in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh</b>			
Action By CSU, IDSP -NCDC	Information communicated to DSU – Ghaziabad, SSU – Uttar Pradesh			

A total of 13 diphtheria and nine measles cases have been reported from Ghaziabad this year till October, informed the World Health Organization (WHO). Two diphtheria patients are confirmed dead, and two other deaths are under investigation in this regard. In 2020, the district reported 14 diphtheria and 15 measles cases.

Vaccine hesitancy, lack of awareness and illiteracy were some of the reasons behind these cases, said WHO officials. Notably, no polio case has been reported since 2011.

Dr Abhishek Kulshrestha, the WHO surveillance medical officer, said, "It (diphtheria) is prevalent in Dasna, Bhojpur, Vijay Nagar, Karheda I, Maharajpur and Loni areas."

Despite ongoing immunisation efforts, the vaccine coverage is low in these pockets due to vaccine hesitancy in certain communities, he said.

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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

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"Children, who are not fully vaccinated as per the schedule, remain susceptible to this bacterial infection, which is quite fatal if left untreated," added Kulshrestha.

WHO has a surveillance system to detect such cases. The latest suspected case has come up in Masuri. A nine-year-old boy of Masuri's Dabarsi village reported having a sore throat and fever. He was first treated at a private hospital and then shifted to a Community Health Centre (CHC) in Dasna.

CHC superintendent Dr Bharat Bhushan said the symptoms of diphtheria were visible in the child, but the case would be confirmed after investigation.

The district health department has now issued instructions for screening children and organising vaccination camps in Dabarsi village.

Administering the anti-diphtheritic serum in the initial stages could save lives, according to doctors. However, the treatment is mainly available in Delhi.

About measles-rubella, Dr Kulshrestha said cases were being detected through fever and rash surveillance systems.

Dr R P Singh, a physician with MMG District Hospital, said, "Minor cold and sore throat can turn serious if children are not vaccinated. A sore throat can be an early symptom of diphtheria, a life-threatening disease in children. The same goes for measles as it may lead to multi-organ failure."

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