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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
5305	31.05.2019	31.05.2019	Kolkata West Bengal	<a href="http://www.timesofindia.com/English">www.timesofindia.com/English</a> <a href="https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kolkata/jaundice-outbreak-in-s-kol-pockets-60-ill/articleshow/69589114.cms">https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kolkata/jaundice-outbreak-in-s-kol-pockets-60-ill/articleshow/69589114.cms</a>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Hepatitis 'outbreak' in south Kolkata- West Bengal pockets; 60 ill</b>			
Action By CSU, IDSP -NCDC	Information communicated to DSU- <b>Kolkata</b> , SSU- <b>West Bengal</b>			

More than 60 people in the Baghajatin-Ramgarh-Gangulibagan belt have been diagnosed with Hepatitis-A in the past one month, and many of them even had to be hospitalized. According to some KMC officials, the disease now threatened to spread to the adjacent neighbourhoods as well.

The outbreak was first reported from bordering areas of Ramgarh and Vidyasagar Colony three weeks ago but the civic authorities allegedly ignored it in absence of confirmatory reports reaching the KMC headquarters. But after local RSP councillor Debasish Mukherjee raised an alarm and took up the matter with the municipal chief health officer in the KMC on Tuesday, a team of doctors from the health wing went to survey the affected areas on Thursday. They inspected the affected households and collected samples of water.

Siblings Shreyashi Dutta (22) and Sanchari Dutta (21) from Ramgarh were diagnosed with Hepatitis-A a fortnight ago. Their uncle, Avinandan Dutta, said they initially did not take their condition too seriously though the sisters complained of abdominal pain and kept losing weight.

**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**

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एक कदम स्वच्छता की ओर


## DOCS SOUND ALARM

**Areas affected:** Ramgarh-Baghajatin-Gangulibagan belt and Vidyasagar Colony under Wards 99 and 101

**Patients:** 50-60

**Time:** Around a month

**KMC action:** Surveyed the affected areas and collected water samples

 I have been attending to several patients, showing signs of jaundice. After tests, Hepatitis-A is confirmed in most of them. It being a water-borne disease, we must trace the source and take corrective measures  
**Sanjay Dasgupta** | DOCTOR

### Jaundice facts

**Cause:** Contaminated food and water, gallbladder stone, inflammation of the liver, bad sanitary condition cause the water-borne disease



➤ A build-up of bilirubin, a waste material, in the blood leads to blockage in the bile duct that causes the disease

**Symptoms:** Yellow tinge to the skin and whites of the eyes; fever; fatigue; abdominal pain; vomiting, weight loss; dark urine



“When they were taken to the doctor, tests confirmed they had jaundice,” Dutta said. He pointed out that as their neighbourhood was dependent on groundwater as treated water from Garden Reach was yet to reach them, they would buy packaged drinking water on alternate days. “We have to be very careful. Not even packaged drinking water is safe,” he said. Residents of Vidyasagar Colony and Gangulibagan are equally apprehensive of the water they are drinking. Shouvik Chowdhury from Vidyasagar Colony said his family was scared of drinking water from

tubewells after an outbreak of Hepatitis-A in the neighbourhood.

Doctors in the affected areas expressed apprehension that the situation might go out of hands if the “civic authorities did not pay attention to the growing menace”.

Sanjay Dasgupta, a physician who has treated more than 30 patients down with Hepatitis-A in the past few weeks, said the matter was rather serious and needed a thorough investigation. “I have been attending to several patients, showing signs of jaundice. After examination, Hepatitis-A germs is confirmed in most of them. It being a water-borne disease, we must trace the source and take corrective measures immediately,” Dasgupta said.

According to Tapan Majumdar another physician in the area who has also had several jaundice patients in the past few weeks, said the disease would spread if immediate steps were not taken. “It is more worrying because members of the same family are falling prey to the disease. It usually takes a month for a Hepatitis-A patient to get well, but if not diagnosed early and treated on time, it might prove fatal,” he said. Councillor Mukherjee pointed out had the civic health department been active a fortnight ago, the disease could have been contained.

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