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Government of India



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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
7241	07.02.2023	09.02.2023	Chennai Tamil Nadu	www.timesofindia.com/English https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chennai/fever-among-kids-typhoid-keep-doctors-busy-in-chennai/articleshowprint/97671870.cms
Title:	Fever among kids, typhoid keep doctors busy in Chennai, Tamil Nadu			
Action By CSU, IDSP -NCDC	Information communicated to DSU – Chennai, SSU- Tamil Nadu			

Children getting viral fever and respiratory diseases is common during the relatively colder months of December and January, but the cases usually abate by February. Not so this year.

Adding to the concern is an increasing number of typhoid cases in the city. "Usually, outpatient and inpatient cases fall in January. Wards are generally quiet after Pongal until April-May," said Dr Bala Ramachandran, who heads the intensive care unit at the Kanchi Kamakoti Childs Trust Hospital. "But this time we are as busy as we were in December." Laboratory tests show viruses such as parainfluenza, adenoviruses, and respiratory syncytial virus.

Children come to hospitals with fever, cold, sore throat, and persistent cough. While most patients respond to common medication, some need nebulisation and steroids. "In some children, cough persists for up to two weeks. The younger the kid, the longer it takes to recover. If the child has recovered from Covid-19 recently, morbidity is higher," said neonatologist Dr Deepa Hariharan of Sooriya Hospitals. Even after getting discharged, several parents come back requesting antibiotics, she

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Disclaimer:- This is a media alert subject to verification.

Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP), National Centre for Disease Control,
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said. Most children are exposed to the virus by the time they are two years old, but pandemic restrictions such as social distancing, masks and hand hygiene appear to have prevented this exposure, thus lowering immunity.

Doctors report an increase in typhoid, an infection caused by contaminated food and water. Usually cases of typhoid increase in the city between May and June and subside by September, when cases of dengue pick up. "We did not see typhoid cases in May and June last year. We saw some isolated cases by early October and we continue to see cases of typhoid among school students every day," said senior paediatrician Dr S Balasubramanian.

Typhoid fever, caused by Salmonella typhi, a bacterium that also causes food poisoning, is highly contagious. An infected person can pass the bacteria out of the body in stools. While some patients recover with antibiotics, some require hospitalisation. "The disease is notifiable and city hospitals have seen a spike in cases in January this year compared to the same month in 2020 and 2021," he said. In some cases, cases notified by doctors don't go into the state registry as doctors fail to do the gold standard blood culture, he said.

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