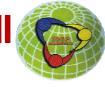




## Media Scanning & Verification Cell



मदम स्वच्छता की ओर

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

Alert ID	Publication Date	Reporting Date	Place Name	News Source/Publication Language
5948	20.08.2020	20.08.2020	Alwar Rajasthan	www.timesofindia.com/English https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/jaipur/alert- sounded-in-alwar-after-13-kids-found-suffering-from- diphtheria-like-symptoms/articleshow/77643171.cms
Title:	Alert sounded in Alwar district -Rajasthan after 13 kids found suffering from diphtheria like symptoms			
Action By CSU, IDSP –NCDC	Information communicated to DSU-Alwar, SSU-Rajasthan			
Health authorities in Alwar are on their toes after 13 children were found suffering				

Health authorities in Alwar are on their toes after 13 children were found suffering from diphtheria-like symptoms. Health department officials have collected their samples and sent those to PGI Chandigarh for confirmatory tests.

The department has launched a door-to-door survey in 21 primary health centre areas of Kishangarh Bas, Ramgarh and Alwar areas.Out of the 13 children, the condition of five is critical and have been admitted to Rajiv Gandhi Hospital in Alwar and one has been shifted to Jaipur. Other children are undergoing treatment at their homes as their condition is stable.

The children admitted to the hospital have been kept in isolation. The health department collected samples of six suspected diphtheria cases and sent those to PGI Chandigarh for confirmatory test of diphtheria.

Health department officials said the suspected cases of diphtheria were found from Naharpur village, which falls in Mewat area. It is a village of 1,500 people. During survey of the houses, the health department found 444 children. The health

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department officials conducted screening of children and found that 142 children were partially vaccinated.Chief medical health officier OP Meena said diphtheria is 10 times more fatal that Covid. It is a preventable disease for which vaccine is available. "The mortality rate of diphtheria is 30%, which is a cause of concern. The children affected from diphtheria avoid taking food. The condition deteriorates and children die," he said.

Meena said there are myths associated with vaccination in the area. In such a situation, it is difficult to persuade them for getting their children vaccinated. On the directions of district collector Anandi, the health department launched a survey in other nearby villages in 21 different primary health centres from Wednesday. During the survey, the health department teams will conduct screening of children to rule out that other children of the areas are also suffering from the same symtpoms. Along with that, they are identifying children who are partially vaccinated or not vaccinated at all.

Parents of the children complained that their children developed symptoms such as swelling in throat, fever and having difficulty in breathing.

On July 31, a 12-year-old girl had died who had symptoms of diphtheria. Apart from her, one more child died recently having similar symptoms. However, parents of both the children did not take them to hospital for treatment. Since the children were not taken to hospital, the health department officials did not confirm that the two children had died of diphtheria.

Know the disease Diphtheria is an infectious disease caused by bacterium Corynebacterium diphtheria. It primarily infects the throat and upper airways and produces a toxin affecting other organs

Its symptoms are sore throat, low fever and swollen glands in the neck. In severe cases, it may cause myocarditis or peripheral neuropathy. It makes breathing and swallowing difficult. The disease is spread through direct physical contact or from breathing in the aerosolized secretions from coughs or sneezes of infected individuals. Vaccination against diphtheria has reduced the mortality and morbidity of diphtheria dramatically

