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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
5805	29.02.2020	02.03.2020	Maharashtra	www.timesofindia.com/English https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/pune/glanders-affect-four-horses-in-two-months-2-men-under-scanner-too/articleshow/74409074.cms
Title:	Glanders affect four horses in two months, 2 men under scanner too in Maharashtra			
Action By CSU, IDSP -NCDC	Information communicated to SSU-Maharashtra			

Surveillance has been stepped in three districts — Aurangabad, Hingoli and Parbhani — in Maharashtra since the beginning of this year after four horses tested positive for glanders, a highly infectious and often fatal zoonotic disease.

"Being a zoonotic disease, the persistence of glanders poses a potential threat to occupationally exposed human beings, especially equine handlers and veterinarians. Therefore, targeted surveillance of human population in affected areas of the district is recommended," surveillance officer Pradip Awate of the state health department said.

The animal husbandry department (AHD)'s Disease Investigation Section (DIS) has identified 13 cases of the glanders infection in horses in six districts — Aurangabad, Hingoli, Parbhani, Buldhana, Akola and Thane — between April 1, 2019 and February 15, 2020. "Blood samples of two persons in Hingoli, living in proximity to infected horses, have been sent to the National Research Centre on Equines in Hisar (Haryana) to rule out infection after they complained of minor illness," Vinayak

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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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Viithal Limaye, joint commissioner of AHD and head of the DIS, told TOI.

"This is just a part of our surveillance. There is no need to panic as glanders has not been reported in humans in the recent past," he said. Surveillance has been intensified around stables and animal sheds in the state's affected districts to prevent the bacterial infection from affecting human beings. The symptoms of the glanders disease in human beings include fever with chills and sweating, muscle aches, chest pain and muscle tightness, among others.

Limaye said, "Since April last year, we have detected glanders in indigenous horses used for drawing carts and in marriage ceremonies. Thoroughbreds used in horse-racing events showed no symptoms. The disease gets detected when owners of the ailing horses seek help of veterinarians." "Blood samples of around 2,500 to 3,000 animals — mainly horses, mules and donkeys — are drawn and tested for glanders, annually, as part of surveillance in the state," Limaye said.

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