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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
5178	04.03.2019	05.03.2019	Madurai Tamil Nadu	www.timesofindia.com/English https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow/68247434.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst
Title:	Rising mercury sees spike in skin in district Madurai, Tamil Nadu			
Action By CSU, IDSP -NCDC	Information communicated to DSU-Madurai, SSU-Tamil Nadu			

The rise in temperature over the past few days meant that the summer-related health issues have been on the rise in the city. Doctors in the city said that the number of cases of herpes zoster, a skin-related issue, is high this year. The steady rise in temperature has also triggered a spike in rise of other tropical diseases such as chickenpox and measles among residents.

According to senior physician Dr S Somasundaram, A R Hospital, Madurai, in the last fortnight he has seen up to 10 cases of herpes zoster, which is an infection caused by varicella-zoster virus (VZV) that causes chickenpox as well. He mentioned that apart from herpes zoster, which is characterized by the appearance of vesicles in the body, he also got a couple of chickenpox cases and one measles case. "The number of herpes zoster cases is high this summer. Viral infections follow a cyclical trend, which peaks once in five years. Probably it could be the case with the trend of herpes zoster this year," he said.

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**

22-Sham Nath Marg, Delhi – 110 054

For more information please contact: Media Scanning & Verification Cell: - Phone (011)23946029

Email: - idsp-msc@nic.in, idsp-npo@nic.in

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एक कदम स्वच्छता की ओर

Head of the department of paediatrics and neonatology at Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre Dr A Kannan said that for the past one week, he started getting diarrhoea and chickenpox cases. He said that other water-borne diseases such as typhoid and jaundice are also possible during this season. "Skin infections are very common among children during summer. What parents should ensure is, children maintain good hygiene and they must be made to drink only boiled water from home and they should carry water from home wherever they go," he told Tol.

On the other hand, dean of Government Rajaji Hospital Dr K Vanitha said that summer-related diseases were yet to be reported in the GH, but maintained that there are possibilities of chickenpox and measles outbreak this season. "Parents should pay more emphasis on maintaining hygiene of the children as there are chances of spreading rotavirus diarrhoea," she added.

Chances of getting heatstroke is said to be less in Madurai, but the doctors advised people to drink ample amount of water as sometimes dehydration could even lead to kidney shutdown.

All the experts said that apart from ensuring hydration, wearing cotton clothes, taking bath twice a day should be followed and travelling in the daytime should be avoided as much as possible.

Meanwhile, some doctors said that there were also possibilities of exacerbation of a few diseases and that people with those conditions should be more careful. "When it comes to neurological issues, there's a risk of increased episodes of migraines and epilepsy among patients who already have the condition," former president of Tamil Nadu Pondicherry Association of Neurologists Dr M A Aleem said.

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