

Dr. Jagdish Prasad

M.S. M.Ch., FIACS

Director General of Health Services



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भारत सरकार

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE
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दिनांक/Dated.....

Dear Sir/Madam,

As you may be aware, Rickettsial diseases – in specific Scrub Typhus, are emerging and re-emerging infections being increasingly reported from many states of India. These infections are usually incapacitating and if untreated result in high case fatality with multiple organ dysfunction. In recent times we also have reports of many Scrub Typhus cases presenting with clinical picture similar of Acute Encephalopathy Syndrome.

This disease is seasonal in many parts of the country, which coincides with the increased contact with the natural host – the rodents, the vector – the mites, and their habitation – the scrub vegetation. Scrub Typhus can be present throughout the year, but the known seasonal pattern for the northern and the north-eastern India is the onset of the rainy season.

Thus in context of the arrival of rainy season in many parts of India, I wish to bring to your attention that it's the time also to strengthen the surveillance for these diseases along with preparedness of preventive and control measures.

Timely case detection and simple case management through agent specific antibiotics such as Doxycycline or Azithromycin can save many lives. I here enclose a CD Alert issued by NCDC Delhi on which provides an overview on the rickettsial diseases, its diagnostics and the recommended prevention-control strategies, and also another guideline issued by DHR-ICMR on diagnosis and management of these rickettsial diseases, which you may find useful.

Reinforcing IEC strategies informing communities about the diseases and preventive measures – to avoid mite infested bushes, usually during field visits for open defecation and other occupational activities such as fodder collection etc., use of full length personal clothings, use of mite repellants, impregnate personal clothes with miticides, wash self and clothes with hot water and soap after visit to mite infested vegetation areas etc. could be a helpful start of generating awareness among the people.

Our premiere public health institutions such as NCDC Delhi are always there to provide any additional technical expertise, if needed.

With best wishes,

Encl : As above.

Yours sincerely,

(Dr. Jagdish Prasad)

Principal Health Secretaries, All States/UTs.

Copy to :

Director Health Services, All States/UTs.

Sr.RDs/RDs, RoHFW, Govt. of India.