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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
5516	03.09.2019	04.09.2019	Pune Maharashtra	www.timesofindia.com/English https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/pune/sassoon-lab-confirms-15-cases-of-leptospirosis-last-month/articleshow/70952137.cms
Title:	Sassoon lab confirms 15 cases of leptospirosis last month in Pune, Maharashtra			
Action By CSU, IDSP -NCDC	Information communicated to DSU-Pune, SSU-Maharashtra			

Leptospirosis, the bacterial infection, infected 15 people in the city in August, according to the latest report of the referral laboratory at Sassoon General Hospital. Heavy showers, followed by floods in low-lying areas and consequent waterlogging were cited as predominant reasons. The patients hailed mainly from Kishkindhanagar (Kothrud), Ganesh Peth, Khairewadi (Ganeshkhind Road), Dehu Road, Annabhau Sathenagar (Wakad), Kamrajnagar (Yerawada), Laxminagar (Yerawada), DP road (Aundh), Ashrafnagar (Kondhwa), Ambegaon (Dhankawdi) and Shivajinagar goathan. "This is the first time that leptospirosis cases were recorded in such a large number in one month in Pune municipal limits," a doctor from the laboratory said. "We have started administering preventive medication free of cost at PMC-run hospitals to those at risk of contracting leptospirosis," Sanjeev Wavare, assistant medical officer of health, Pune Municipal Corporation, said.

The risk of the disease usually rises during the monsoon. About 20 leptospirosis cases were first recorded in Pune city during the 2017 monsoon — the highest in several years. Bhavani Peth and Yerawada were the worst-affected in 2017. A Warje resident had also succumbed to the disease that year, the first fatality in the city. "Leptospira bacteria, once out in the open, can survive in water and soil for weeks or

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**Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP), National Centre for Disease Control,
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months," senior microbiologist Renu Bharadwaj said. She is the former head of microbiology at the state-run BJ Medical College, attached to Sassoon. Those infected people may have a wide range of symptoms or none at all — symptoms include high fever, severe headache, chills, muscle aches, and vomiting, and may include jaundice, red eyes, abdominal pain, diarrhoea or a rash. If not treated in time, patients can suffer from kidney damage, meningitis, liver failure, and respiratory distress. Death occurs in rare cases. "Leptospirosis is grossly under-reported, mainly due to a lack of awareness among medical professionals and difficulties in laboratory diagnosis," a state health official said.

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