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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
5164	21.02.2019	22.02.2019	Bengaluru Karnataka	www.timesofindia.com/English https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bengaluru/bluru-sees-rise-in-chickenpox-cases-as-summer-sets-in-early/articleshow/68086863.cms
Title:	Bengaluru sees rise in chickenpox cases as summer sets in early			
Action By CSU, IDSP -NCDC	Information communicated to DSU-Bengaluru, SSU-Karnataka			

THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Isolation and bed rest are a must for patients till scabs fall off
- Contact with another person/child or any adult suffering from herpes zoster can spread infection
- Not common in children below 1 year who are on mother's milk
- Lesions will be severe if adults have not suffered it in their younger days



“ Though there are vaccines available, there is a lack of awareness and the vaccine is not included in the government vaccination programme. Two doses of vaccine are suggested for protection. It's administered only in private hospitals

Dr SM Prasad
VICE-PRESIDENT,
INDIA ACADEMY OF
PAEDIATRICS, BENGALURU

With mercury soaring due to early onset of summer, the city is seeing a rise in chickenpox infection, especially among children at a time when exams are beginning. Lack of awareness about chicken pox vaccination is said to be the major culprit. Chickenpox is a viral illness that generally

starts with mild fever. Multiple small red bumps are formed on the skin and they turn into thinwalled blisters filled with water. They become cloudy blisters or open sores and finally dry up with brown crusts.

💧 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

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एक कदम स्वच्छता की ओर

Dr SM Prasad, vice-president, Indian Academy of Pediatrics Bengaluru, said his clinic attended to three cases in the last five days alone. "Usually, chickenpox cases see a rise as summer sets in.

Though there are vaccines available, there is a lack of awareness and the vaccine is not included in the government vaccination programme. Two doses of vaccine is suggested for protection. It's administered only in private hospitals," Dr Prasad said. The first dose of vaccine is given to children when they are 14 month old and a booster shot is given at 4-5 years of age. The second dose can also be administered 4 months after the first dose. There are vaccinations for adults too. Chickenpox rash begins on the trunk and spreads to face and extremities. Some sores may appear in the mouth, on eyelids or genital area. The infection is highly contagious and is acquired by direct contact with infected blister fluid or by inhalation of respiratory droplets.

"Those with low immunity levels and elderly people with diabetes and cardiovascular diseases are vulnerable to chickenpox and herpes infection. Both are caused by varicella zoster virus," said Dr Ambanna Gowda, general physician, Fortis Hospital. For the last three weeks, he has been seeing 3-4 cases every seven days. Some of the affected children have missed their annual exam. "There was no way that I could send my child to the school when she had an oral exam. The school understood the issue and a medical certificate was produced. Another slot will be given for her exam once she recovers," said a parent from Hebbal, whose 12-year-old daughter is infected with chickenpox.

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