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Media alert from the Media Scanning & Verification Cell, IDSP-NCDC.

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6721	23.05.2022	23.05.2022	Ernakulam Kerala	www.timesofindia.com/English https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kochi/chicken-pox-and-typhoid-cases-catching-up-in-dist/articleshowprint/91730628.cms
Title:	Chickenpox and typhoid cases catching up in district Ernakulam, Kerala			
Action By CSU, IDSP -NCDC	Information communicated to DSU – Ernakulam, SSU- Kerala			

Chickenpox and typhoid cases are showing a rising trend in Ernakulam, the health department officials have said. While the warm weather in the district till a week ago led to a rise in the chicken pox cases, the increase in typhoid cases has been blamed on the pre-monsoon rains that have been continuing for the past one week.

As per the data collected from the health department office in Ernakulam, as many as 52 chickenpox cases were reported till May 21 as against 32 in April. In the case of typhoid, as many as 11 suspected cases were reported compared to five such cases recorded in the district last month. Even in the sweltering heat of March, only 45 chickenpox cases were reported in Ernakulam.

Chickenpox, caused by varicella zoster virus, spreads from person to person through air, and is mostly reported in April-May months in the summer while typhoid is a waterborne disease caused by the bacterium Salmonella typhi transmitted through contaminated food and water.

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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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A state health department official said chickenpox cases rise as temperature goes up and spreads quickly due to the contagious nature of the virus. "Since the past one week, we have started to receive pre-monsoon rainfall. The incubation period of chickenpox is between seven to eight days after exposure. So, the cases that are being reported now are those that developed almost a week ago. Once the monsoon sets in, cases will come down. In the case of typhoid patients, we found they were infected after they had contaminated food or water from outside," said a health department official.

The authorities expect the typhoid cases to rise further in the coming months due to the monsoon rains. They have advised people to ensure personal hygiene to keep the disease at bay and avoid having stale food and water from outside. In January this year, a woman had died of chickenpox in the district. "She was suffering from other diseases as well. Chickenpox starts with blister like rashes and is often accompanied by fever, dizziness, headache, body pain and fatigue. While in the case of typhoid, the patient develops weakness, fever, vomiting and other health issues," said the official.

The authorities consider all the 11 cases reported this month as suspected as the tests were conducted in private hospitals. "A diagnosis of typhoid fever can be confirmed only if the tests are done at government labs in medical colleges or at a public health laboratory. PCR test or blood culture test is done to confirm typhoid and it should be done before starting the antibiotic treatment. Otherwise, we record the cases as suspected," said the source.

Even as these contagious diseases are reported, the health department authorities are struggling to contain dengue cases as well. As many as 319 suspected and 102 confirmed dengue cases were reported in May so far as against 148 suspected and 71 cases last month.

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