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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
4009	26.04.2017	27.04.2017	Malappuram Kerala	www.thehindu.com/English http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/deadly-diphtheria-resurfaces-in-malappuram/article18225938.ece
Title:	Deadly diphtheria resurfaces in district Malappuram, Kerala			
Action By CSU, IDSP -NCDC	Information communicated to DSU- Malappuram, SSU-Kerala			

The deadly diphtheria has resurfaced in the district after a gap of less than 10 months. The authorities have confirmed two cases of diphtheria in the district.

A young woman from Thuvvur and a small boy from Edappatta are fighting the deadly disease at Government Medical College Hospital, Kozhikode.

District Medical Officer K. Sakeena said they had not been vaccinated. Medical authorities, during routine check-ups conducted in the last few months, had found over a dozen suspected cases of diphtheria in

different parts of the district. But the confirmation of the two cases has sent alarm bells ringing in the health sector.

The authorities have swung into action, conducting screening and awareness camps and administering TD vaccine to all those who had got in touch with the diphtheria affected persons.

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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The district had witnessed a massive onslaught against diphtheria, a preventable disease through vaccine, in the wake of two diphtheria deaths and over two dozen infected cases in June-July last year. The entire Health Department had woken up, garnering support of the socio-religious segments of the society.

The district had evoked not only the national attention, but also that of the UNICEF. The global body too had lent financial support for the awareness campaign carried out in the wake of the diphtheria cases.

In spite of the intensive immunisation drives, some sections in society have been resisting vaccination, claiming that it has no scientific basis and that it would cause more harm than good to the society.

The health authorities claimed that they could reach out to more than one lakh new children below 15 years of age since the intensive vaccination campaign was launched in June last. However, the number of fully and partially unimmunized children in the district continues to be a matter of concern for the authorities.

"We are really afraid. They are unapproachable. They will drive us away. And they won't listen to us too," said a health official, referring to those who resist immunisation.

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