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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
4458	25.12.2017	27.12.2017	Pune Maharashtra	www.timesofindia.com/English https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/pune/roadside-eateries-under-scanner-after-36-get-typhoid-in-2-months/articleshow/62259124.cms
Title:	Roadside eateries under scanner after 36 get typhoid in 2 months in Pune, Maharashtra			
Action By CSU, IDSP -NCDC	Information communicated to DSU-Pune, SSU-Maharashtra			

As many as 36 people have been diagnosed with enteric (typhoid) fever in the city in two months, putting a huge question mark on the quality of food and water served at roadside joints as well as in restaurants.

As per the latest report of the Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC), of the 36 cases, 13 were reported in December alone. "Private hospitals from the city informed us about 13 cases in December. We had recorded 23 typhoid cases last month. We have been inspecting food stalls and destroying unsafe food items (if any). People also need to exercise caution while eating out," Anjali Sabane, assistant medical officer of health, PMC, said.

Experts said large number of students and professionals living independently are more at risk as they are dependent on outside food for sustenance. Senior family physician Avinash Bhondwe said, "I have seen four cases in the last few days. The numbers of roadside food stalls and hawkers have increased significantly over the years. More than water, it is unsafe food and unvaccinated food handlers who are main causative factors." He said, "Besides, quite a few marriages took place in November and December. Since catering provided at marriages do not conform to safety norms many times, that is also the reason behind rising typhoid cases."

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**Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP), National Centre for Disease Control,
Ministry Of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India**

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PMC's health department has prescribed certain norms for food handlers. "Every year, they need to procure health or fitness certificate from a doctor to be submitted to the civic body," Sabane said.

Doctors, however, said submitting this certificate has remained only a formality. "PMC health officials should carry out random checks to ensure that the norms are stringently followed," Bhondwe said, adding that hawkers and vada paav shops have increased significantly and the civic health department has no proper mechanism to regulate them.

He said food handlers at hotels and restaurants should be vaccinated against typhoid regularly. "Infected food handlers such as cooks and restaurant workers can pass on the bacteria in food and water they handle, thus, spreading the infection. Even though infected, such individuals may exhibit no symptoms or signs of the infection," Bhondwe added.

When contacted, senior family physician Prakash Mahajan said he had seen three cases of typhoid this month so far.

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