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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
4490	19.01.2018	19.01.2018	Himachal Pradesh	The Tribune English Newspaper 19 th Jan., 2018/Page No. 10
Title:	Jaundice claims its first victim in State, Himachal Pradesh			
Action By CSU, IDSP -NCDC	Information communicated to SSU-Himachal Pradesh			

The state government today sounded a high alert after the jaundice claimed its first victim. A 13-year-old school girl from Sundarnagar admitted to the Indira Gandhi Medical College and Hospital (IGMC) succumbed to the deadly waterborn virus here two days ago, but it was confirmed today after investigation that she died of hepatitis.

As many as eight patients from Shimla, Solan, Mandi and Hamirpur have tested positive for the disease so far, this year. The jaundice outbreak has exposed all tall claims of the Health and IPH Departments to provide safe drinking water to residents.

While the death of the girl has sent an alarm bell in Sundarnagar, the jaundice outbreak has been reported from Baochari locality in Shimla and Theog — one case each, so far. A college boy from Theog caught the infection in Chandigarh and both patients have been cured, claimed a surveillance official.

The girl and her brother suffered from jaundice about 10 days ago. The parents admitted the girl to the Civil Hospital, Sundarnagar, where her condition deteriorated.

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

For more information please contact: Media Scanning & Verification Cell: - Phone (011)23946029

Email: - idsppediaalert@gmail.com, idspp-misc@nic.in, idspp-npo@nic.in

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As she did not show any sign of improvement, she was shifted to Suket Hospital in Sundarnagar after three days. But her condition deteriorated further at the private hospital and she slipped into “hepatic coma”, revealed investigation by the doctors at the IGMC.

The girl was then shifted to IGMC in a critical condition on January 12. “She was put on ventilator, but all attempts to save her failed and she died here two days ago”, the doctors told The Tribune here.

The health team was rushed to a small village near Sundarnagar town to find the exact cause of jaundice. “Her two brothers also suffered from jaundice who are reported to have been cured from the ailment. But no one else suffered from the disease in the village”, said a health official.

The surveillance team from the Health and IPH Department is yet to ascertain the exact reason behind the jaundice outbreak in the family. “We are testing water sources as all reports from the National Institute of Virology, Pune, are awaited”, they claimed.

In all, out of 40 cases tested for jaundice in the state, as many as eight cases of jaundice have tested positive so far. These include three from (Baldwara and Sundarnagar) in Mandi district, two from Hamirpur, two from Shimla and one from Kasauli.

The gastroentologists warn that the jaundice outbreak might worsen because of the dry season. The IPH needs to monitor and plug possible leakage of sewage into the water supply lines and residents should only drink boiled water as it kills the virus, they advised.

Onkar Sharma, Principal Secretary, Revenue and Disaster Management, directed all DCs to put in place contingency plan to tackle drought-like situation and monitor water samples by regular testing and stopping contamination of water sources to prevent jaundice outbreak in the state.

‘Put in place contingency plan’

I have directed all DCs to put in place a contingency plan to tackle drought-like situation and monitor water samples by regular testing and stopping contamination of water sources to prevent jaundice outbreak in the state. — Onkar Sharma, Principal Secretary, Revenue and Disaster Management

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