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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 |
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| 4407 | 11.11.2017 | 13.11.2017 | Pune Maharashtra | www.timesofindia.com/English https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/pune/yerawada-pimpri-men-test-positive-for-leptospirosis/articleshow/61599886.cms |
| Title: | Two more persons tested positive for leptospirosis in Pune, Maharashtra | | | |
| Action By CSU, IDSP -NCDC | Information communicated to DSU-Pune, SSU-Maharashtra | | | |

Two more persons tested positive for the dreaded bacterial infection leptospirosis at a state government referral laboratory this month.

A 36-year-old man of Yerawada and another 46-year-old man, a resident of Link road in Pimpri, tested positive for the disease in the first week of this month.

"Both the patients tested positive at the referral laboratory. Hence, they are confirmed cases. We have directed the health officials of the Pune and Pimpri Chinchwad municipal corporations to step up surveillance in the areas where the newly diagnosed patients reside," said a state health official, who refused to be named.

About 20 leptospirosis cases have been recorded in Pune city so far this year — the highest in past several years. Bhavani Peth and Yerawada areas are the worst-affected by the disease as maximum cases have been reported from these areas.

Anjali Sabne, the assistant medical officer of health (AMoH), Pune Municipal Corporation, said, "We have stepped up surveillance in Yerawada."

Anil Roy, the health official of Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation, could not be contacted for his comment on measures taken in Pimpri to rule out the presence of the bacterial disease.

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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**

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एक कदम स्वच्छता की ओर

When TOI had reported about the death of a person because of leptospirosis on July 10, the civic health officials were clueless about it. It was only after TOI report that the officials initiated surveillance and preventive measures.

"Leptospirosis is grossly under-reported because of lack of awareness about it among medical professionals and difficulties in diagnosis," another state health department official said.

In cities, rodents that infest the sewage system with free living animals act as carriers. Even light showers choke the poorly maintained drainage systems, leading to flooding. This causes a spurt in leptospirosis cases in monsoon.

"Leptospira bacteria, once out in the open through animal urine, can survive in water and soil for weeks to months," senior microbiologist Renu Bharadwaj had said in an earlier interview. She is the head of the microbiology department in the state-run BJ Medical College attached to Sassoon General Hospital, the referral laboratory for leptospirosis.

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