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

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4411	15.11.2017	16.11.2017	Bhopal Madhya Pradesh	www.timesofindia.com/English https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bhopal/bewar-e-encephalitis-lurks-in-bhopal/articleshow/61650300.cms
Title:	Beware: Encephalitis lurks in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh			
Action By CSU, IDSP -NCDC	Information communicated to DSU-Bhopal, SSU-Madhya Pradesh			

The dreaded Japanese Encephalitis virus is lurking in Bhopal, adding an ominous threat to a city reeling from unprecedented spread of dengue, chikungunya and swine flu this year. Two persons have tested positive for JE infection, where the mortality rate is as high as 30%, triggering vector-control drives on a war footing in four localities.

"JE has been confirmed in two cases. As per protocol, measures have been taken to curtail spread of the disease," said MP health director Dr K L Sahu. Both patients are in Bhopal. The first case was reported about a fortnight ago from Saket Nagar. The patient, 10-year-old Jai Singh Poorvi, suffered a mild infection and thankfully did not have any risky symptoms apart from fever and headache. The second patient, Lucy Warde, is also a 0-year-old and lives in Tilajamalpara, about 12km from Saket Nagar. Lucy was diagnosed with a severe form of the ailment and is reported to have suffered spastic fits. Both patients are now out of danger and expected to make a full recovery, say doctors. But for the administration, the fight against the mosquito-borne virus has just started. Only four cases of JE have been detected all over Madhya Pradesh, senior health officials told TOI on Tuesday.

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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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But having two of them in the state capital is giving the jitters to health and corporation officials, especially considering the onslaught of other mosquito-borne diseases — dengue and chikungunya this year.

After the diagnosis, a team of experts from Delhi was alerted. Vector control operations took place on an emergency scale in four localities of the state capital — Saket Nagar, Tilajamalpura, MANIT, and Patrkaar Colony.

Experts warn that patients who have high fever with stiffness in the neck and or convulsions should see a doctor immediately. Other symptoms of JE are severe headache, stupor, disorientation, tremors, and spastic paralysis. Babies are more likely to have convulsions.

Samples from the area around Tilajamalpura and Saket Nagar confirmed the presence of the virus, say sources. What's more worrying, the disease may be lurking in other parts of the city since both the kids caught the infection outside their residential locality. Warde is suspected to have got the mosquito bite from Cholla-Dussera Maidan, where her aunt resides. Poorvi is suspected to have got the infection as a result of pigs scuttling along a huge drain that swamps the area along AIIMS-Bhopal.

The health department along with Bhopal Municipal Corporation (BMC) began vector control operation around 5am on Tuesday. Mosquito samples from the vulnerable sites were collected and have been sent for epidemiological analysis.

JE results when mosquitoes feed on infected pigs and wild birds and pass on the virus when they bite humans. JE virus is amplified in the blood systems of domestic pigs, which are found in significant numbers across Bhopal. Last year, Chikungunya was detected in Saket Nagar. It was the first case of the mosquito-borne ailment in five years. A year later, chikungunya has become endemic, with over 300 patients detected in 2017. The authorities have to work on a war footing to ensure JE doesn't go the same way.

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