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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
4291	04.09.2017	04.09.2017	Raichur Karnataka	www.thehindu.com/English http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/11-positive-cases-of-diphtheria-reported-in-raichur-district/article19616739.ece
Title:	11 positive cases of diphtheria reported in district Raichur, Karnataka			
Action By CSU, IDSP -NCDC	Information communicated to DSU-Raichur, SSU-Karnataka			

Cases of diphtheria are being reported in Raichur district. Out of the 33 suspected cases, in which throat swabs have been sent for medical examination, 11 have been confirmed positive. Of these 11, three were from Raichur taluk and two each from Lingsugur, Sindhanur and Deodurg taluks. Except one patient, who is aged 22, the others are in the two to 15 age group and they are getting treatment at the Raichur Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS), S.M.K. Naseer, District Health Officer, told *The Hindu* over phone on Saturday.

He denied reports in a section of the media that four patients suffering from diphtheria died in a private hospital in the district recently. He said that "we demanded autopsy reports and FIR from the police in support of such claims. But, none have submitted the reports sought for." He also said that any death by diphtheria should be supported by proper medical reports, though the disease in itself is danger by nature and may cause death.

Meanwhile, the confirmation of 11 cases being positive has set the alarm bells ringing in the health sector.

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**

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Page 1



The authorities have swung into action and have taken up prophylactic activities for family members of patients and also in 50 houses in the locality where patients were residing. Diphtheria is preventable with the use of antibiotics and vaccinations, if the patients are brought to the health care centres or hospitals in time.

There are four combination vaccines used to prevent diphtheria such as Tetanus, pertussis, DTaP and Tdap. Two of these (DTaP and DT) are given to children younger than seven and two (Tdap and Td) are given to older children and adults, he said.

"We have stocked sufficient Td vaccination which could be administered to diphtheria-affected patients," Dr. Naseer said. Nearly 500 doses of Td vaccination have been received so far and 60 of them are in Raichur and the remaining have been sent to the affected taluks, he added.

To a query, he said that no one among the 11 patients, whose test results came positive, had died.

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