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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
4907	20.09.2018	20.09.2018	Sawai Madhopur Rajasthan	www.timesofindia.com/English https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/jaipur/11-diphtheria-cases-in-sawai-madhopur/articleshowprint/65878712.cms
Title:	11 'diphtheria' cases in district Sawai Madhopur, Rajasthan			
Action By CSU, IDSP -NCDC	Information communicated to DSU- Sawai Madhopur, SSU-Rajasthan			

Eleven suspected cases of diphtheria, which is a highly contagious and potentially life-threatening bacterial disease, have been found in Sawai Madhopur's Kotra area.

Surfacing of diphtheria cases raises question on effective implementation of national vaccination programme. Diphtheria can be prevented through vaccine. It is included in pentavalent vaccine which combines five different vaccines in a single vial for protecting against five diseases: diphtheria, pertussis (whooping cough), tetanus, hepatitis B and Haemophilus influenzae type B (Hib).

When health department officials came to know about children being found with infection of throat and upper airways, they rushed to Kotra village of Sawai Madhopur district. "We suspected that these are diphtheria cases. Since it is an infectious disease, it was needed to prevent it from spreading. For that purpose, we inspected the area on September 15 and found 11 such cases," said, Dr Tajram Meena, chief medical health officer, Sawai Madhopur.

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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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It is the disease which spreads through direct physical contact. Also, if an infected person coughs or sneezes, the aerosolized secretions might infect other healthy persons. The health department officials launched a door-to-door survey in the village to find out if any other person was suffering from the symptoms of diphtheria.

The officials claimed that the clinical examination of the children indicated that they were suffering from diphtheria. But, they needed a confirmation from laboratory tests. "We have sent blood samples to Kota's government-run medical college for testing. The reports are awaited," said Dr Meena. The health department officials swung into action when the children in the age group of 8 years to 12 years started complaining of sore throat, low fever, swollen glands in the neck.

A health department official said that they are conducting immunization of under-five children for prevention of certain diseases. The Centre has directed health department to fully vaccinate 90% of children by December end.

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