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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
3620	02.09.2016	05.09.2016	Meerut Uttar Pradesh	www.timesofindia.com/english http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/meerut/26-docs-found-absent-as-dengue-viral-fever-grip-dist/articleshow/53985732.cms#
Title:	26 doctors and 39 paramedical staff fell ill due to chikungunya, dengue and viral fever in Meerut, Uttar Pradesh			
Action By CSU, IDSP -NCDC	Information communicated to DSU-Meerut, SSU-Uttar Pradesh			

The entire district is in the grip of chikungunya, dengue and viral fever, yet several health officials and paramedic staff were on Friday found absent from duty without prior information. The chief medical officer (CMO) of the district Dr Sharad Tyagi has issued notices to 26 doctors and 39 paramedical staff of community health centres (CHC) in rural areas seeking explanation for their absence from duty, and also issued an order to deduct their one day's salary. Meanwhile, city MLA Lakshmi Kant Bajpai met the CMO to take stock of the situation.

The CMO said that in Meerut alone, 24 cases of dengue and 23 cases of chikungunya have been found positive. "Chikungunya is primarily not a fatal disease. It is a viral disease whose symptoms are similar to those of dengue. The symptoms of chikungunya include high fever, sever joint pain, joint swelling and muscle pain," the CMO said.

Taking note of increasing cases of water-borne diseases, the state government has instructed CMOs of all districts that they too should attend patients for at least four hours a day. State chief secretary Deepak Singhal on Thursday instructed the

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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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district magistrates and health officers through video conferencing to review the situation on a daily basis for the next 15 days and take all necessary measures to curb spread of diseases during this monsoon season.

Following the chief secretary's directions, the CMO sent several teams of doctors to rural areas to take stock of the situation on Friday at 12 CHCs in the district. The teams in their report said health officers and other staff in these CHCs were found negligent; 26 doctors and 39 paramedical staff were found absent from duty. "We have issued notices to these doctors and staff seeking explanation for their absence from duty, and also issued an order to deduct their one day's salary. On Saturday, we will examine the situation in 43 primary health centres (PHCs) located in remote rural areas," the CMO added.

Heavy rainfall this monsoon has aggravated the situation in several districts of western Uttar Pradesh. Meerut city has registered a steep rise in cases of dengue, chikungunya and viral fever in last few days.

Meanwhile, city MLA Lakshmi Kant Bajpai also met the CMO and appraised him about the pathetic condition of slum areas. Bajpai told TOI, "The entire district is in the grip of chikungunya, dengue and viral fever due to the lackadaisical attitude of health officers. Today, when I questioned the CMO and his deputies about the number of areas where anti-larval spray to check mosquito menace has been carried out, they were clueless. They couldn't even say in how many open spaces have become waterlogged. I offered them two ambulances, purchased by using local area development fund, to be used as mobile clinics. Sadly, these health officials have no plan yet to deal with the situation."

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