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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
3676	24.09.2016	26.09.2016	Dholpur Rajasthan	www.timesofindia.com/English http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/jaipur/Viral-infection-spreading-its-not-chikungunya-Dholpur-chief-health-officer/articleshow/54499443.cms
Title:	Viral infection spreading, it's not chikungunya: Dholpur Chief Health Officer in district Dholpur, Rajasthan			
Action By CSU, IDSP -NCDC	Information communicated to DSU- Dholpur, SSU-Rajasthan			

Just days ago, a prominent TV channel reported that patients of chikungunya in Dholpur district were being treated outside the hospital, lying two to a cot. A neem tree outside the hospital was being used to hang the bottles from which the patients were being given drip.

Mukesh Goswami of the Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sanghatan (MKSS) says his father has been diagnosed with chikungunya too. His brother had earlier fallen sick with dengue and is still on medicines. His nephew, he says, is now sick and under treatment. There is no clear diagnosis yet. The community health centre at Kachanpur in Dholpur district, where Goswami's relatives have been treated, caters to about 16 gram panchayats. There is a huge rush of patients here.

Chief medical and health officer (CMHO) Dholpur Rajesh Mittal, however, said, "There is not one person from my district who has tested positive for chikungunya. There is, it is true, a spread of viral infection." Asked why the virus was spreading so rapidly now, he said, "You might need to ask a senior physician. I am just an MBBS doctor."

BR Meena, director, public health, said, "It's true that there is greater morbidity at

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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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this time and more patients are reaching hospitals. This is a viral infection but the figures for dengue, at 588 in the entire state since January this year, and chikungunya, at 122 since the beginning of the year, are not that high. We have had 4,839 cases of malaria in the state this year. There were 325 scrub typhus cases and 186 swine flu ones."

Goswami told TOI, "There was no doctor at the hospital when I took my nephew there are 9 this morning. The doctors - a husband-wife team, arrived late and then instead of sitting in the room allotted to doctors, set up a table elsewhere at a spot where there was no seating for patients. One young boy who had been waiting long fell. He could no longer stand. Many of the patients were too weak to stand for long."

Patients have been streaming in from nearby villages like Pavesura, Panjipura, Moodanpura and Dhonspur, Goswami said. Ramakanth, a 10-year-old at the CHC said, "I have been suffering with this fever for three days. The doctor has no time to examine each of us closely. He spent less than a minute on me, gave me a list of medicines and told me I could go home."

Ramakanth's relatives, however, insisted that if he could not be treated, he should be referred to the General Hospital, Dholpur. At this, the doctors admitted him at the CHC. He was then, for a while, the only in-patient at the CHC. Five others were admitted in the course of the morning, but all of them were discharged by noon, Goswami said.

Chikungunya Fact File:

'Chikungunya' in the African language Swahili, means 'that which bends up' - the disease causes joint pains and leaves sufferers bent over.

- Besides fever and joint pains, other symptoms are fatigue, rashes, nausea, headache, muscle pain and swollen joints
- Symptoms typically begin between 2 and 12 days of the bite of an infected female mosquito
- *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus* are the two mosquito species that transmit this disease. These are mosquitoes that also cause dengue. They bite throughout daylight hours, though there may be peaks of activity in the early morning and late afternoon.
- There is no cure; no vaccine. Best preventive is to avoid mosquito bites
- First reported outbreak was in Tanzania in 1952
- Increasing global temperature, greater international travel and higher population density contribute to allowing mosquitoes to take up residence in previously unoccupied areas. This has caused the increased global range of this disease.

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