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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
5424	30.07.2019	31.07.2019	Ernakulam Kerala	www.timesofindia.com/English <a href="https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kochi/2-deaths-due-to-leptospirosis-in-ekm-this-month/articleshow/70440877.cms">https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kochi/2-deaths-due-to-leptospirosis-in-ekm-this-month/articleshow/70440877.cms</a>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>2 deaths due to leptospirosis this month in Ernakulam district, Kerala</b>			
Action By CSU, IDSP -NCDC	Information communicated to DSU- <b>Ernakulam</b> , SSU- <b>Kerala</b>			

Two leptospirosis deaths have been reported in the district this month, taking the death toll due to leptospirosis to three this year, as per data with the district medical office (DMO). Apart from this, there are 75 confirmed dengue cases this month, 11 cases of viral hepatitis, 95 cases of chicken pox, six cases of malaria, two cases of diphtheria and three cases of H1N1.

District health authorities suspect that the two women and a man, who died of leptospirosis, might have contracted the disease from their surroundings as they live near waterlogged areas. "One of the victims, a 54-year-old man from Cheranallur, worked as clam collector," said Dr Sreedevi, additional district medical officer, Ernakulam. Health officials said that he worked and lived in unhygienic circumstances. The other victims are an 84-year-old woman and a 74-year-old woman from Angamaly. Six confirmed cases of leptospirosis have been reported this month, taking the total number of cases to 15 this year. Leptospirosis is a relatively rare bacterial infection that affects people and animals. It can pass from animals to humans when an unhealed break in the skin comes in contact with water or soil

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**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**

**22-Sham Nath Marg, Delhi – 110 054**

For more information please contact: Media Scanning & Verification Cell: - Phone (011)23946029

Email: - [idsp-msc@nic.in](mailto:idsp-msc@nic.in), [idsp-npo@nic.in](mailto:idsp-npo@nic.in)

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where animal urine is present. Several species of the leptospira genus of bacteria cause leptospirosis. Hospitals have been recording high number of fever cases in the district, with figures crossing 31,770 this month. There are cases of children developing red rashes or spots on the face along with fever, which in common man's lingo is called 'tomato fever'.

"It is nothing but viral fever that is self-limiting. But since it is contagious, if anyone has contracted the fever, then they should stay at home," said Dr Sheetal Binu. Health authorities have been trying to create awareness among people to keep surroundings clean and check on waterlogging near homes to prevent spread of communicable diseases like dengue, malaria, leptospirosis and swine flu. Already they are focussing on key problem areas like Kothamangalam where cases of malaria are increasingly being reported.

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Email: - [idsp-msc@nic.in](mailto:idsp-msc@nic.in), [idsp-npo@nic.in](mailto:idsp-npo@nic.in)

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