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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
6265	21.08.2021	24.08.2021	Patna Bihar	www.timesofindia.com/English https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/patna/patna-hospitals-see-spike-in-seasonal-flu-cases/articleshowprint/85497020.cms
Title:	Patna hospitals see spike in seasonal flu cases, Bihar			
Action By CSU, IDSP -NCDC	Information communicated to DSU- Patna, SSU- Bihar			

Hospitals in the city are witnessing a rise in cases of upper respiratory tract infection, such as common cold, cough and influenza, viral fever and fungal infection. Water-borne diseases like typhoid, hepatitis A, dengue and diarrhoea have also kept doctors on their toes in the city.

Health experts said such cases were on the rise primarily because of change in weather conditions. "Many people are getting rapid antigen and RT-PCR tests done only to find that they are Covid-19 negative and they come under the influence of seasonal flu," they said.

Dr Chandra Mohan Kumar, additional professor of paediatrics department at All India Institute of Medical Sciences-Patna, said many patients are complaining of skin and fungal infections due to hot and humid weather conditions. "Cases of mosquito-borne diseases are on the rise especially in flood-affected areas. Every day,

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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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3-4 dengue patients come to the hospital. Similarly, 4-5 hepatitis A and at least two typhoid cases are reported per day,” he said.

Dr Kumar said common cold and influenza cases are also on the rise, leaving patients in a dilemma as Covid-19 has similar symptoms. “Viral fever and seasonal flu, however, subside in 4-5 days. But people are more concerned about Covid-19 and they rush to hospitals on experiencing even minor symptoms. During this time of the year, people need to maintain hygiene around home and source of drinking water,” Dr Kumar added.

Dr Nigam Prakash Narain, former head of paediatrics department at Patna Medical College and Hospital, said most patients come with upper respiratory tract infection, skin infection and diarrhoea. “People should keep their rooms cool, wear cotton clothes and drink sufficient water to keep seasonal diseases at bay,” he said.

Dr Narain said children in the age group of 5 to 12 years and below two years mostly catch these diseases. “Children should be encouraged to take proper bath, especially when schools are open, as they are more prone to skin infections and boils.”

Dr Binod Kumar Singh, superintendent of NMCH-Patna, said among the patients visiting OPD of the hospital these days, around 40% are the ones suffering from seasonal flu. “Cases of diarrhoea are also on the rise, especially among kids,” he added.

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