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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
5876	18.04.2020	20.04.2020	Bihar	www.timesofindia.com/English https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/patna/aes-spreading-in-north-bihar-23-cases-reported/articleshow/75208435.cms
Title:	AES spreading in north Bihar, 23 cases reported			
Action By CSU, IDSP -NCDC	Information communicated to SSU-Bihar			

Amid Coronavirus pandemic, the Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES), also known as brain fever, has started spreading its tentacles in north Bihar. At least 23 cases of AES have been reported from Muzaffarpur, East Champaran and Sheohar districts since January this year.

While one of them died, three were released after their condition improved. While nine out of 14 cases reported to the paediatric intensive care unit (PICU) at sadar hospital in Motihari were released, five are still undergoing treatment. In Muzaffapur, out of nine children admitted to the SKMCH, one died and three others were released.

Both Vaishali and Sheohar districts reported one case each this year. SKMCH superintendent Dr S K Shahi said, "Altogether nine cases of AES were reported this year. While one of them died, three others were released. Five are still undergoing treatment at the PICU here."

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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, idsp-npo@nic.in

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Head of the paediatrics department Dr GS Sahni said, "Another AES patient, a five-year-old girl from East Champaran district, is showing improvement. The facility is taking care of all the patients."

It may be mentioned here that SKMCH alone accounted for 120 deaths of children below the age of 15 years due to AES last year. The rising number of cases this year has, however, set the alarming bells ringing in the state health department, which is grappling with Covid-19 pandemic.

Meanwhile, Muzaffarpur DM Chandrashekhar Singh assessed the work undertaken under the state government's welfare schemes for the AES hit families under five worst affected blocks—Motipur, Bochaha, Musahari, Minapur and Kanti--of the district.

During the review meeting, the officials informed the DM that work has already started in 1,427 wards under 102 panchayats. The work under tap water supply to households in affected areas was also reviewed at the meeting, a source in the district administration said.

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