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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
3587	20.08.2016	22.08.2016	Uttarkashi Uttarakhand	www.timesofindi.com/English http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/dehradun/Mystery-disease-kills-3-infects-50-in-Uttarkashi-says-DG-alert-sounded/articleshow/53789358.cms
Title:	Mystery disease kills 3, infects 50 in Uttarkashi, Uttarakhand says DG; alert sounded			
Action By CSU, IDSP -NCDC	Information communicated to DSU- Uttarkashi, SSU-Uttarakhand			

Over 50 people in a village in Mori, Uttarkashi have been infected by a "mysterious" disease, as per the state director general of health. Three children have already died due to the disease, triggering alarm across the department. A team of experts, doctors and paramedical staff has already been sent to the location, though blocked roads and landslides are obstructing their path. "We are unable to understand the actual cause of the disease. It has remained a mystery so far," said the DG.

Three girls have died from the disease in Levadi village of Mori block within a week. As per the villagers, many other girls have also fallen sick. As per the preliminary findings of the team, which finally reached the village on Saturday afternoon, the disease has spread mainly among teenage girls.

Due to the geographically challenging terrain, the team took time to reach the village, which is 18 km from the main road and only accessible on foot. "We have directed the chief medical officer (CMO) of Uttarkashi to take instant action before the situation goes out of control. As per preliminary reports, patients are complaining about throat pain followed by itching and irritation in the eyes. Our team is battling shoddy infrastructure and bad weather just to reach the spot. We hope they will be able to solve the problem," said Dr SC Pant, director (in-charge) of health.

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Disclaimer:-This is a Media Alert and pending 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

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Page 1



"We are also surprised that only girls have been infected. No one has been able to control the spread of the disease due to two reasons: poor connectivity and absence of medical staff in the area. Most of the time, diseases just go unnoticed. This time, because the girls started dying, the administration woke up and started taking action," said Raghubeer Singh Rawat, husband of the pradhan of Levadi.

The chief medical officer of Uttarkashi, Dr (major) BS Rawat told TOI that a clearer picture would emerge by Sunday. "The prima facie report by the doctors in the village indicates these girls suffered some kind of throat infection or mumps. However, we have not been able to establish communication links with our medical team. Once they are back by Sunday we will know what actually happened," said Rawat.

The three girls who died apparently tried to medicate themselves with herbs, which are suspected to have led to an adverse reaction. While one of the girls died after being brought to Doon Medical College and Hospital, the other two could not even make it that far. "The disease is directly affecting the kidney of the patient, due to which the health team has gone on alert and arrangement for instant nephrology care is being made at the hospital," said the medical superintendent.

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