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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 |
|---------------------------------|--|----------------|--------------------------|---|
| 3593 | 22.08.2016 | 23.08.2016 | Coimbatore Tamil Nadu | www.timesofindia.com/English http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/coimbatore/Coimbatore-women-polytechnic-college-students-fall-ill-admitted-to-hospital/articleshow/53811652.cms |
| Title: | Coimbatore women polytechnic college students fell ill due to food poisoning in district Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu | | | |
| Action By CSU, IDSP -NCDC | Information communicated to DSU- Coimbatore, SSU- Tamil Nadu | | | |

As many as 64 students of the Government Women's Polytechnic College have been admitted to Coimbatore Medical College and Hospital after they complained of stomach pain and loose motion. The health department, which suspects it is a case of food poisoning, has shut down the hostel mess and cut off drinking water supply.

"Thirty students were admitted on Sunday night, while another batch of 26 students were rushed on Monday morning. By Monday afternoon, a total of 64 students were admitted to CMCH," said dean Edwin Joe.

"The students are in a stable condition and are responding to the treatment," he added. Meanwhile, two ambulances were stationed at the college hostel take students to hospital in case of emergency. "We have also deployed two doctors at the college hostel to take care of the students. Around eight students have complained of stomach pain and vomiting," said deputy director of public health and preventive medicine S Somasundaram.

The food safety department has collected samples of the drinking water supplied at the hostel and lentils cooked at the college mess. "It is said that the lentils used for Sunday's lunch are the reason. Food safety department has collected samples, and

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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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we can expect the reports in three-four days," Somasundaram said.

"As a preventive measure, we have shut down the operations of the hostel mess and cut off the drinking water supply. A complete cleaning of the hostel and the mess has been ordered," he said.

While officials of the public health department said the lentils cooked for Sunday's lunch could be the cause of infection, students said the drinking water supplied to the hostel was the source of infection. "There are two water filters in the hostel, one of them was switched off on Sunday night after some of our friends were rushed to hospital," said a student.

The drinking water is supplied from overhead tanks, and when TOI asked about the last time the overhead tanks were cleaned, a teacher said, "Around 10 days ago."

Officials of the health department said it would be difficult to ascertain the reason for the food poisoning. "The suspicion is on the lentils used for lunch on Sunday, but by the time we collected samples on Monday morning, there was no portion of Sunday's lunch left. So, we had to collect raw samples. The chances are low that we will find any results after the test," Somasundaram said.

The hostel seems to have a history of water contamination. A similar incident was reported in July 2014, when 24 students were admitted to CMCH after they complained of vomiting and diarrhea. In 2012, 46 students were rushed to Sri Ramakrishna Hospital complaining of illness after drinking water.

"We have instructed the college to carry out regular cleaning of the water tanks and the mess kitchen. We have also asked them to provide preventive medicines to workers in the hostel," said the deputy director of public health.

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