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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
4822	22.08.2018	23.08.2018	Patiala Punjab	www.timesofindia.com/English https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chandigarh/dengue-menace-looms-large-in-patiala-43-cases-reported/articleshow/65505602.cms
Title:	Dengue menace looms large in Patiala district Punjab; 43 cases reported			
Action By CSU, IDSP -NCDC	Information communicated to DSU- Patiala, SSU-Punajb			

Heavy rains and lack of awareness among the masses had put the health department on its toes as the district that hogged headlines last year for remaining at the second position in witnessing dengue cases is again bracing itself to fight against the dengue menace.

Even as the health officials claimed to have initiated efforts to counter the dengue and chikungunya, the district had witnessed as many as 43 cases of dengue and nine of Malaria. However, no chikungunya cases had come to light so far in the district. Patiala Urban area and the Patran sub-division of the district have become more vulnerable to rising dengue cases as 18 cases have been reported from Patran alone. The data collected from the health officials revealed that over 250 suspected cases of dengue are under examination and the reports are awaited. The samples of the suspected patients are being taken for testing in the government recognized laboratory and in PGI Chandigarh.

The department on Friday had started creating awareness among the schools and colleges as part of its campaign to counter the dengue and the staff members of schools are also participating in the campaign.

Under the campaign, the health officials are giving stress on cleaning of containers and coolers besides informing the residents about the precautionary measures 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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symptoms of dengue and chikungunya.

Last year Patiala witnessed a large number of dengue and Chikungunya cases following which the health department focused on creating awareness of the vector borne diseases among masses. The Patiala Municipal Corporation (PMC) also had joined hands to counter the dengue menace by deciding to provide fogging machines in each ward.

The health officials along with the corporation is also imposing fines to defaulter residents who are not abiding the instructions of making their surrounding and the containers or coolers in the houses or shops cleaned. In only last one and half month, the officials have imposed fine to around 204 defaulting residents.

“We are imposing fines to residents and shopkeepers where we discover the larva in their coolers or containers. There is a rise in dengue cases but in comparison to last year, it is low. I had taken the report from all the SMOs deputed at sub-divisions and we are also holding meetings with the councillors. The ASHA workers are also deployed on the task of creating awareness”, said, Dr Harish Malhotra, Patiala Civil Surgeon.

Epidemiologist Gurmeet Singh said, “We have enough fogging pumps to conduct the follow up of the dengue patients while the main fogging in the city is being done by the municipal corporation with bigger machines. There is a need to create awareness among the masses as only this can curb the dengue.”

Notably, last year around 2400 cases of dengue and 110 cases of Chikungunya was reported besides a large number of malaria and other vector-borne diseases. The Patiala health authorities though claim only two deaths due to dengue have taken place last year, however, sources revealed that this number was under-reported.

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