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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 |
|---------------------------------|---|----------------|----------------------|---|
| 5138 | 07.02.2019 | 07.02.2019 | Dharwad Karnataka | www.timesofindia.com/English https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/hubballi/surge-in-viral-fever-cases-affects-workforce-in-city/articleshow/67873827.cms |
| Title: | Surge in viral fever cases affects workforce in Dharwad, Karnataka | | | |
| Action By CSU, IDSP -NCDC | Information communicated to DSU-Dharwad, SSU-Karnataka | | | |

As the spell of cold weather continues, clinics and nursing homes in the city are witnessing a sharp spike in the number of patients suffering from viral fever and flu. Various institutions, including government departments, are seeing a depleted workforce with employees calling in sick.

Kashappa Karadin, an employee working in a private company, told TOI that on Tuesday he suddenly felt low in energy and his nose was running. By the end of the day, he contracted a fever and was forced to miss work the next day. Similarly, Ishan J, a resident of Keshwapur, had a sore throat which developed into a fever. He has been forced to take leave for a couple of days.

Doctors say viral fever cases have gone up because of the change in weather. They say it's mostly viral fever that is in the air, but warn people that if they don't get better after a couple of days, then they should take a blood test for dengue or malaria. KIMS director Dr Ramalingappa Antartani said the hospital has been witnessing a 5% increase in the OPD. "Most patients complain of fever, cough, cold and body ache which are symptoms of viral fever. Every day around 1,000 to 1,200 patients were treated at the OPD, but since January we have had an influx of patients," he said. One of the causes, he said, was dust from road development work.

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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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Page 1

“Those with viral fever need rest and patients will feel relief after three or four days of treatment,” he said.

Dr RM Doddamani, district health officer, said it wasn't just city-dwellers who were suffering, but hospitals in rural areas too are seeing a higher influx of patients. Dr MC Sindhur revealed he is seeing more patients with respiratory tract infections and fever. “The fever is an airborne hence one should wear a mask while venturing out. Maintaining personal hygiene is most important,” Sindhur said

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