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Media alert from the Media Scanning & Verification Cell, IDSP-NCDC.

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5105	15.01.2019	16.01.2019	Thiruvananthapuram Kerala	www.timesofindia.com/English https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/thiruvananthapuram/over-100-techies-hit-by-food-poisoning/articleshowprint/67532729.cms
Title:	Over 100 techies hit by food poisoning in district Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala			
Action By CSU, IDSP -NCDC	Information communicated to DSU-Thiruvananthapuram, SSU-Kerala			

As scores of employees of companies based in Technopark fell ill with symptoms of food poisoning, the district medical office has decided to conduct a medical camp at the IT park on Tuesday.

Considering the gravity of the situation, district medical office (DMO) authorities started 'ORS corners' at three places inside the Technopark campus. Oral rehydration solution (ORS) packets will be distributed free to employees who show symptoms of food poisoning.

The Integrated Disease Surveillance Project (IDSP) of the DMO received two reports on Sunday and Monday regarding the spread of ailment among techies. All those who suffer from food poisoning-related issues can meet the medical officials at the camp.

According to district surveillance officer Dr Neena Rani, there is no need for panic and the department is actively monitoring the situation. "Issues were being reported since January 7. Most people recover in three to five days. As per our report, employees working in five buildings at Technopark, out of the total 15, were affected.

💧 Save Water- Save Life, 🌳 Save a tree- Don't print unless it's really necessary!

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

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They usually have food from food courts within the buildings or from outside too. We have to check sources of water, whether there is any leak in pipeline etc," Dr Rani said.

Sources in the health department said number of infected has already crossed 100 with six fresh cases being reported at PHC, Pangappara on Monday. Not just techies, their family members too have developed symptoms. Several persons have reported that the infection has spread to their family members, especially kids.

Meanwhile, the health wing of city corporation directed two shopowners near Technopark to temporarily close their shops owing to unhygienic working conditions. 'Pastry Land' and 'Juice Palace' were asked to take improvement measures such as proper waste management before filing request to reopen the shops. The health wing officials will conduct inspection in more restaurants on Tuesday.

Health wing officials said that they will take action under Dangerous and Offensive Trade Act of the Municipalities Act against those eateries functioning under unhygienic conditions. "Only the food safety department could check the quality aspects. We have noticed various unhealthy practices like reuse of oils and use of poor quality items," health supervisor T Alexander said.

However, the food safety department is not showing any interest in the recent developments due to a bitter experience they had in April, 2018, following a raid in Phase III campus of Technopark. There was huge protest against entry of food safety officials in the campus, which resulted in an altercation with officials of an IT company. The then food safety commissioner Veena N Madhavan was transferred following the incident. The park authorities had then stated that they conduct regular audit of food courts within the campus.

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