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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
4625	03.05.2018	07.05.2018	Hyderabad Telangana	www.timesofindia.com/English https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/hyderabad/private-hospitals-getting-5-6-chicken-pox-cases-per-week/articleshow/64012616.cms
Title:	Private hospitals getting 5-6 chicken pox cases per week in district Hyderabad, Telangana			
Action By CSU, IDSP -NCDC	Information communicated to DSU- Hyderabad, SSU-Telangana			

Cases of chicken pox are on the rise in the city, say doctors with an average of five-six new cases being reported at private hospitals every week. At government facilities, the number is higher with the per-week count of patients often touching 15. According to authorities, while the first cases of chicken pox, this year, started to surface almost two months ago, the numbers are now rising steadily.

"Though we do get cases throughout the year, the rate of occurrence is maximum between March and May. We are getting about five cases every week now," said Dr Vikram Simha Reddy, consultant physician, Century Super Specialty Hospitals.

Usually, it is a childhood disease but can occur at any age. Chicken pox is a contagious viral disease caused by the 'Varicella Zoster Virus' that spreads through direct contact with the infected person. Patients are usually infected from two days before the rash appears to five days after the rash and are instructed to avoid contact with anyone during this period.

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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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The symptoms, experts say, include fever, body ache, cough, cold and a characteristic rash. The best way to identify chicken pox is by this rash, experts add, which appears as a fluid filled area. Usually, it first appears on the trunk and back and gradually spreads to the face and scalp.

“The earlier you start the treatment, the slower is the progression of rashes. The start of antivirals also helps in preventing major complications, including epididymo-orchitis, pneumonitis and pancreatitis,” said Dr Rahul Agarwal, senior consultant internal medicine, Max-Cure Hospitals.

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