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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
3738	02/11/2016	03/11/2016	Malkangiri Odisha	www.timesofindia.com/English http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bhubaneswar/mystery-virus-adds-to-malkangiri-je-death-toll/articleshow/55202082.cms
Title:	Mystery virus adds to Malkangiri-Odisha JE death toll			
Action By CSU, IDSP -NCDC	Information communicated to DSU-Malkangiri, SSU-Odisha			

Struggling to find an answer to the Japanese encephalitis (JE) outbreak in Malkangiri district, government health officials involved in the fight seems to be confounded by the presence of an as yet unknown virus which they feel could be responsible for killing more children than the former. On Tuesday three more children died in Malkangiri, taking the toll to 80."Had JE been the main cause behind the deaths, the situation would have come under control by now. Our worry is other viruses which need to be identified and their pattern of transmission figured out. It's very difficult to have a strategy when you don't know the virus," said Madan Pradhan, nodal officer for national vector-borne diseases control programme in the state.

To buttress his claim Pradhan said only in the case of 26 children who died has JE been confirmed. But in the case of 45 others, the virus has not been identified. Pradhan said more assessment needs to be done to find out the killer disease. He also claimed that the situation in Malkangiri has striking similarity with the outbreak at Muzaffarpur in Bihar in 2011-12 when several children had died. "We are studying research articles on the Muzaffarpur deaths," Pradhan said.

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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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Nruparaj Sahoo, the officer on special duty (OSD) who has been assigned the task of coordinating efforts to contain the outbreak, sounded worried. "The situation is grim. It's not improving despite best of our efforts," Sahoo said.

In a related development, the government has decided to begin training healthcare professionals within the next few days to carry out immunization of children for JE. The vaccination will start after the training, an official source said.

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