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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
4890	14.09.2018	17.09.2018	Himachal Pradesh	The Statesman English Newspaper 14 <sup>th</sup> September, 2018/Page No. 04
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Death toll due to Scrub Typhus in Himachal Pradesh rises to seven</b>			
Action By CSU, IDSP -NCDC	Information communicated to SSU-Himachal Pradesh			

**BHAWANI NEGI**  
SHIMLA, 13 SEPTEMBER

With one more patient succumbing to Scrub Typhus at Indira Gandhi Medical College (IGMC), Shimla, the death toll due to the disease in Himachal has risen to seven.

The latest casualty to the disease is a four-year-old girl child from Kullu district, who died on Wednesday evening at IGMC.

According to the data available with the Department of Health and Family welfare since January till 11 September, 2018, as many as 6,586 blood samples were tested out

of which 652 have tested positive for the disease.

Meanwhile, IGMC, senior medical superintendent, Janak Raj confirming of one more death of a four-year old girl at IGMC said that patients suffering from the disease continue to pouring in at the hospital.

So far IGMC alone has witnessed 5 succumbing to the disease, he added.

The hospital since January this year till date, has conducted 1,414 tests out of which 165 have tested positive.

Many patients from neighbouring districts are also reaching IGMC.

"The number of patients is expected to increase with each passing day, as the cycle of the disease continues to persist usually till October," he said.

He cautioned that the disease was clinically manifested by high grade fever, headache, cough, muscle pain and gastrointestinal symptoms.

Those suffering from these symptoms should immediately be rushed to the hospital as any delay could lead to the loss of critical time for treating the disease, said Janak Raj.

The disease is transmitted through mites that could be found in areas of heavy scrub

vegetation, he said, adding that those working in agricultural fields and grasslands need to be vigilant and take precautionary measures by wearing knee-length boots.

He said the IGMC was equipped to conduct serological tests such as IgM Elisa, which was being done free of cost.

The patients are being treated with antibiotics, that include doxycycline, he added.

The first outbreak of Scrub Typhus, also known as World War-II Rickettsial Disease in Himachal was witnessed in 2003.

Ever since its outbreak it has claimed several lives.

💧 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

For more information please contact: Media Scanning & Verification Cell: - Phone (011)23946029

Email: - [idspsc@nic.in](mailto:idspsc@nic.in), [idsppo@nic.in](mailto:idsppo@nic.in)

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