



सत्यमेव जयते
Government of India



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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
5897	11.05.2020	11.05.2020	Ernakulam Kerala	www.timesofindia.com/English https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kochi/ernakulam-records-threefold-rise-in-dengue-fever-cases/articleshow/75666786.cms?utm_source=content_of_interest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst
Title:	Ernakulam district -Kerala records threefold rise in dengue fever cases			
Action By CSU, IDSP -NCDC	Information communicated to DSU-Ernakulam, SSU-Kerala			

Ernakulam witnesses a steep hike in dengue fever cases compared to previous years. As many as 307 cases were reported in the district from January 1 to May 8 this year. This is a threefold increase from 2019, which saw 90 dengue fever cases during the same period. The number was 198 in 2018.

Most of the cases are reported from eastern areas including Varapetty, Paipra, Kothamangalam, Muvattupuzha, Ayavana and Kadavoor in Ernakulam rural. Of the 307 cases, 61 are from Kochi corporation limit alone. Dengue cases are reported from 40 divisions in the corporation limit.

Lockdown also played its part to facilitate breeding of Aedes aegypti mosquitoes in the city. "Since hotels remain closed for more than one-and-a-half months, many hoteliers gave grinders for service. We noticed stagnant rainwater in grinders kept outside a service centre. It has become a breeding ground. We also noticed that open plastic barrels placed on roadsides for hand washing as part of Break the Chain

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**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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campaign have become a breeding ground as many do not use it or leave it unattended," said a health official.

Health officials notice people often tend to discard plastic waste or small bins on the compound or in the nearby rubber plantations. Rainwater gets collected in such bins.

"When we visited the house of a dengue fever patient at Varapetty, we did not find any source of breeding of Aedes mosquito. But on detailed surveillance on the compound, we found that tarpaulin sheet, which is used to cover logs in front of the house, has become breeding ground of the mosquito. As against common perception, Aedes mosquitoes breed in clean water. It needs only one spoon of water to breed on and spread the fever. Source can be anywhere and the flying distance of this mosquito is 100m to 150m. The peculiarity of Aedes mosquito is that there would be transovarial transmission where pathogens are transmitted from parent to offspring arthropod. If the Aedes mosquito lays eggs in a dry container, it will remain attached to the sides of it. The eggs can survive for up to six months in the dry container. When we pour water in the container and keep it for a week, it becomes a source for the mosquito to grow. Many are ignorant of this fact. Sometimes the eggs remain attached to the brim of the utensil if it is not washed properly," said the health official.

"One should not wait for health workers to come and clean it. Every individual has the responsibility to clean the containers since they are going to suffer. The mortality rate of dengue fever is 10 to 12%. It is very easy to identify Aedes mosquito as it has black and white striped legs," said the official.

The officials noted outbreak of dengue fever in hilly areas. "Epidemiological studies say dengue fever will reach its peak every three years. Dengue cases in Ernakulam are mostly reported from hilly areas. People can use the lockdown as an opportunity to clean their compounds properly to control the vector," said DMO N K Kuttappan.

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UNDERSTANDING THE DISEASE

Symptoms

- Fever, headache, pain behind eyes, muscles and joints
- Severe cases - Vomiting, stomach pain, bleeding, red rashes, fatigue, breathing difficulties, low blood pressure, black faeces



A health worker inspects a grinder service centre in Ernakulam

About the Vector

- Aedes aegypti mosquito breeds at stagnant clean water during intermittent rains. It requires only one spoon of water to breed

Commonly seen in

- Cups used to collect latex at rubber plantations
- At tarpaulin sheets, used to cover logs
- Trays inside and at the bottom of refrigerators
- Stagnant water in sun shades
- Discarded utensils,

coconut shells, tyres, nutmeg shells, flower vases and its basins, disposable glasses and plates

Precautionary Measures

- Treat waste at the source itself
- Clear non-biodegradable waste like plastic and degradable waste like coconut shells once in a week
- Clear water from trays in refrigerators, flower vases, basins once in a week
- Clean feeding utensils of domestic animals

- Utensils and tanks, which are used to store water, should be washed properly once in a week. Cover them with net or cloth

- Ensure that there is no stagnant water in tyres, plastic items, shells of nutmeg, coconut and arecanut sheath, on terrace and sun shades
- Cover vent pipe of toilet with mosquito net
- Observe dry day once in a week by cleaning compound of houses and mosquito breeding points

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