

PRESS RELEASE

A meeting was held in the Office Chamber of the Chief Secretary, Government of Meghalaya along with the officials of the Health Department on 04.08.2014 at 12: 00 noon to discuss the issue of Japanese Encephalitis (JE) in the state.

There are altogether 23 (twenty three) suspected Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) cases and 7 (seven) laboratory confirmed JE in the State. 3 (Three) positive cases from Ri Bhoi, 1 (one) from West Khasi Hills, 1 (one) from Jaintia Hills and 2 (two) from East Khasi Hills. The positive cases were treated at NEIGRIHMS and Civil Hospital, Shillong. So far there are no reported cases of death from JE.

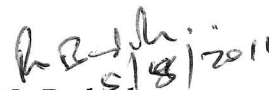
JE is caused by a virus and it is transmitted through culex mosquitoes. The transmission of the disease is maintained by egrets most of which are migratory and by pigs which are the amplifier host. JE outbreak occur in areas where there is a close interaction between these animals and human beings. Man is an accidental host and does not play a role in JE virus transmission. Children below 15 years are mostly affected. Outbreak of JE is usually between monsoon and post monsoon period when the density of mosquitoes increases. The vector mosquitoes breed in large water bodies such as paddy field and the mosquitoes are day biters and are outdoor in nature.

The signs and symptoms of JE include fever, headache and altered sensorium:

Publicity and Awareness Programme at all levels especially in vulnerable areas are being taken up for the benefit of the public. The government has taken appropriate steps to procure JE test kits from NIV, Pune. All Health institutions including private hospitals in the state have been alerted and immediate necessary intervention has been taken up where suspected cases are reported and confirmed.

Stress on the following is reiterated for diagnosis and case management:

- In case of fever to visit the nearest health center for remedial measures.
- Use insect repellent on exposed skin.
- Wear long sleeves and pants to protect against the bite of mosquito.
- Always use a mosquito net while sleeping.
- Co- operate with the health authorities in the prevention and control of these diseases.


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