

**Press Release**

**Health Advisory during Flood and Post Flood Periods**

**1. Medical Care**

- 1.1. People can seek health advice in the health facilities / medical camps / mobile medical and public health units visiting the areas.
- 1.2. For injured persons, Tetanus Toxoid Injection is administered in all the health facilities including camps.
- 1.3. In addition to the medical care, bleaching powder for decontamination of the sumps / overhead tanks are also given in the medical camps / mobile medical and public health units.
- 1.4. Further, all Government Health facilities are functioning with necessary facilities and drugs. These facilities may be availed by the public.

**2. Infectious Diseases Prevention and Control**

- 2.1. Government is taking all efforts to prevent the occurrence of water borne and vector borne communicable diseases like diarrhoea and fever.
- 2.2. The public are advised to follow the following precautions:
  - a. Only safe drinking water to be used.
  - b. Boiled water is preferable.
  - c. Frequent hand washing with soap and water is a must to prevent infections.
  - d. Food materials soaked in flood water should not be used.
- 2.3. If anyone develops fever or diarrhoea, they should immediately seek health care in Government health facilities including medical camps.
- 2.4. If any clustering of cases noticed (i.e. more than 3 cases in the same street), they should inform the nearby health facility / mobile team and public health control room.
- 2.5. People are requested to ignore rumours. People may take notice of the fact that there is not even a single outbreak of infectious diseases during this flood.
- 2.6. If people notice any private tanker lorry collecting water in open pools / open wells, it should be immediately informed to the public health control room since flood contaminated water is not safe.

**3. Protected and Safe Drinking Water**

- 3.1. Water with proper level of chlorine should be used for drinking.
- 3.2. The chlorine level should be 2 PPM in overhead tanks (OHT) and 0.5 PPM in the street tap / household tap.

- 3.3. Follow the following steps for chlorination of water in the water tank / sump in the household:
  - a. For every thousand litres of water to be chlorinated 4gms of 33% bleaching powder should be taken in a bucket and made as a paste.
  - b. Add water up to 3/4<sup>th</sup> of the bucket slowly and mix thoroughly.
  - c. Wait for 10 to 15 minutes for the lime and other sediments to settle down.
  - d. Transfer the supernatant chlorine water to another bucket and mix the chlorine water in the overhead tank / sump.
  - e. One hour after the above process of Chlorination the water may be used.
- 3.4. Broken pipe lines should be repaired and checked for any leakages.

#### **4. Procedure for Cleaning of Sumps / Overhead Tanks after Flood**

- 4.1. Submerged bore-wells, sumps, open wells should be used for collecting drinking water only after thorough cleaning. The step by step procedure is given below:
  - a. The water logged in the sumps / overhead tanks should be drained out completely.
  - b. Scrub and wash the sump / overhead tank with bleaching powder.
  - c. After thorough scrubbing, the sump / overhead tank can be filled with water.
  - d. The water should be chlorinated as described above.
  - e. Allow the water to flow for at least five minutes in all taps to flush out the impurities.
- 4.2. Similarly, wells and bore-wells also should be chlorinated.

#### **5. Hygiene Measures in Temporary Shelters**

- 5.1. People staying in temporary shelter should drink only the water provided in the camp.
- 5.2. People should use toilet facilities. If not available for any reason, they may request the camp in-charge to provide the temporary toilet facilities.
- 5.3. Disinfection of temporary shelter areas with bleaching powder and lime (Ratio of 1:4) frequently.

#### **6. Fly Control Activities**

- 6.1. Flies multiply in garbage and decaying materials. So, the garbage and decaying materials should be removed at the earliest through the Local Bodies.
- 6.2. These areas should be disinfected with bleaching powder and lime

#### **7. Mosquito Control**

- 7.1. Tyres, broken earthen pots, coconut shells, waste plastic containers and Water stagnation in construction site etc. are the potential breeding sources

for mosquitoes

7.2. So unused containers should be removed frequently and continuously

## **8. Safe Disposal of Dead Animals or Birds**

8.1. Dead animals or birds if noticed should be brought to the notice of the Municipalities and Local Bodies and removed by deep burial and spraying of the bleaching power.

## **9. Post Flood Measles Vaccinations**

9.1 All children in the age group of 9 months to 15 years residing in flood affected areas irrespective of previous immunization status should be given single dose of Measles Rubella Vaccination

9.2 Care should be taken to maintain a minimum gap of 4 weeks before any other vaccination to the children.

**10. For further information and help on health issues, people are advised to contact the 24 hours health helpline number –'104'.**

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