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Zika Update: First case of Zika virus reported in Tamil Nadu

11 July 2017 | News

Public health officials in the state said they decided to go public with the detection as soon as they detected the disease to create awareness about the disease.



Zika virus has reappeared once again in India, this time in the state of Tamil Nadu. This is the second case in India after the first cases of Zika were confirmed in Ahmedabad, Gujarat earlier in May 2017.

The government of Tamil Nadu has confirmed the case of case within 11 days of detection. On June 26, the 28-year old patient developed symptoms such as fever, redness of eyes, headache, photophobia, pain behind the eyes, myalgia and weakness.

According to the news posted by the Times of India, senior officials including health secretary J Radhakrishnan visited the patient at his home over the weekend. Vector control measures were carried out in the area. Public health officials in the state said they decided to go public with the detection as soon as they detected the disease to create awareness about the disease. "The disease is here. There is no point in keeping it a secret. We want doctors to keep their eyes open to this disease and we want patients to meet a doctor as soon as they see the symptom," said state health secretary Radhakrishnan to Times of India.

As per the WHO statement, immediately after the cases were reported, the Health ministry had shared the national guidelines and action plan on Zika virus disease which have been shared with the states to prevent an outbreak of the disease and facilitate containment of spread in case of any outbreak. It also constituted an inter-ministerial task force

Meanwhile, a technical group tasked to monitor emerging and re-emerging diseases regularly reviewed the global situation on Zika virus

All the international airports and ports have displayed information for travellers on Zika virus disease while the airport health officers along with airport organisations, the National Centre for Disease Control and the National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme are monitoring appropriate vector control measures in airport premises.