



Alert in Malappuram after boy dies of West Nile fever

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This could be the first confirmed death in Kerala due to virus

- The Health Department has issued an alert in Malappuram after a six-year-old boy from the malappuram district undergoing treatment for West Nile fever died at the Government Medical College Hospital.
- Health experts claimed this could be the first confirmed death in Kerala due to the relatively unknown viral infection that leads to neurological diseases.
- Birds are the natural hosts of the virus and vaccine is not available for it.
- There had been a suspected case of the infection last year in Kozhikode district but the National Institute of Virology had not confirmed it.

Increased surveillance

- The Animal Husbandry Department would keep a surveillance on birds, especially in areas such as the Kadalundy bird sanctuary, which was frequented by a large number of migratory birds, she said.
- According to the World Health Organization, this viral infection is most often the result of mosquito bites. Mosquitoes are infected when they feed on birds, which circulate the virus.
- It may also be transmitted through contact with other infected animals, their blood, or other tissues.
- Symptoms of the virus infection include cold, fever, fatigue and nausea.

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