

# DENGUE ON THE Hospitals run out

**DANGER** Even money cannot assure dengue patients a room in private hospitals. With hospitals receiving more than 100 cases daily, there is no space for more

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**NEW DELHI:** Dengue does not differentiate between the rich and the poor. Even patients with deep pockets are finding it hard to find a private room in most city hospitals. The spurt in dengue cases has left hospitals with hardly any space to accommodate more patients.

A random check on Monday revealed more than 500 cases of dengue had been admitted in 10 city hospitals.

"Normally, dengue cases start pouring in by the end of August, peak towards September end and start going down by October end, before finally ending in November. But this year abnormally high numbers have been reported during August itself. If these figures are anything to go by, then October seems scary," said Dr Sandeep Budhiraja, director, Institute of Internal Medicine, Max hospital, Saket.

The Out Patient Department (OPD) of internal medicine at Max, Saket, functions from 8 am to 8 pm every day, and during that time Dr Budhiraja alone sees about 50 suspected dengue cases. "Almost 15 dengue cases need to be hospitalised every day. It's becoming difficult to manage the rush now, and the situation is only going to get worse," he said.

Since the beginning of this year, Max hospitals alone have admitted 585 dengue cases.

Other hospitals in the city such have similar experiences to share. Moolchand Medcity had 35 suspected dengue cases admitted on Monday. Their admission rate is more than 10 people with dengue-like symptoms daily.

Holy Family Hospital, which gets maximum cases from southeast Delhi's Jemia Nagar and adjoining areas, also reported full occupancy with more than 50 dengue cases admitted



Despite the Capital facing a dengue outbreak, the authorities have yet to clean up the water collected in this stretch behind the MCD's Civic Centre. SONU MEHTA/HT PHOTO

in the hospital at present. The hospital gets more than 200 suspected cases of dengue each day.

St Stephen's near Tees Hazari, currently has 130 dengue cases admitted. "We have had more than 100 people admitted at any given day, many of these are Delhi University students," said an administrative official in the Hospital, requesting anonymity.

"My 14-year-old son was admitted for dengue at Apollo for 10 days ago, and we saw more than 100 dengue cases every day. You can easily expose the government's figures by checking the city hospitals. The actual figure may run into thousands," said Satbeer Choudhary, a resident of Sultan Puri.

## Schools join dengue fight

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**NEW DELHI:** From posters, talks and awareness drives, students have been participating in various activities in the wake of the dengue outbreak in the Capital to help prevent its spread.

Most schools in the city have advised the students to wear full sleeves shirts and trousers to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes. "We have allowed students to wear full-sleeves shirts and trousers if they wish to," said Suman Nath, principal, Tagore International School, East of Kailash.

At the Shri Ram School, Vasant Vihar, all classrooms, school buses and the campus are being regularly fumigated and the school has allowed the students to wear clothes other than the uniform.

Students of Modern School, Barakhamba Road undertook an extensive urban sanitation drive last week.

"The New Delhi Municipal Corporation's chief medical officer spoke to the students about the importance of maintaining personal hygiene and a walkathon was also organised," said principal Lata Vaidyanathan.

## Strike may cost DBCs their jobs

Municipal Corporation of Delhi's domestic breeding checkers (DBC's) may lose their jobs if they go on strike at a time when the city is facing a dengue outbreak. The DBC's are threatening to go on a strike from September 6. They had observed a token strike on Monday.

They are contract workers and want regularisation of their jobs.

"If they stop work, their services can even be terminated," said Delhi Mayor Prithvi Raj Sawhney. NDC, NEW DELHI