

Kochi, Spread of Communicable Diseases

Alert on spread of communicable diseases

Health Dept Warns As Water Level Recedes

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kochi: Health department has issued an alert to the public on the spread of communicable diseases like viral fever, H1N1, rat fever and diarrhoea in the wake of receding waters and people returning to their homes.

It has asked people to follow the advice of health workers, when they start cleaning their homes.

"Use utensils only after cleaning with boiled water and make sure food items are all closed. Wells and drinking water tankers should be cleaned with bleaching water based on the advice of the health department. Residents have been asked to check whether the septic tanks have been broken. There may be instances of water pipes and septic waste must have got mixed. Work in tandem with the health department workers," was the directive.

Though the district administration took a breather with the water levels coming down, they have asked the people to remain cautious and not rush home. Officials said that 11,500 people were staying at 67 camps in Ernakulam on Saturday. In Paravur taluk, 37 camps have been opened, 16 camps in Aluva taluk, and 5 camps have been opened in Kanayannoor. In Kunnathumedu, two camps are functioning.

Though the water level in Periyar is gradually coming down, there seems to be no immediate respite for those living in flood-affected areas and those residing in camps as it would at least take three weeks to return to a state of normalcy.

"The water level is decre-



ANXIETY: Seethamma, an Eloor native, along with revenue minister E Chand

asing and it is giving us some sort of relief. But that doesn't mean all the problems have been solved. In fact, the real problems have just started. When I went back home on Saturday morning, I was shocked to discover that the rooms especially bathrooms are clogged with dirt and thick mud. And to make matters worse, I was terrified to see poisonous snakes within and outside the house. So, under this condition it looks like we have to continue our stay in relief camps for more than a month," said Sunny Eapen a resident of Kanjoor, Kalady.

Aluva municipality officials said that they would carry out the cleaning activities from next week. Just because water level had receded doesn't mean the danger is over or everything was all right. "We are constantly monitoring the situation but there is no need to panic. But at least for three weeks people must stay in camps," said an official with Aluva municipality.