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Subject: PRO/SOAS> Anthrax - India (04): (Telangana) sheep, human exposure

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ANTHRAX - INDIA (04): (TELANGANA) SHEEP, HUMAN EXPOSURE

A ProMED-mail post

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Source: The New Indian Express, Express News Service [edited]

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/states/telangana/2019/may/26/anthrax-scare-in-nalgonda-distthree-sheep-dead-1981834.html>

[A total of] 3 sheep died in Kattangoor mandal [subdivision] headquarters on [Sat 25 May 2019]. On receiving the information, animal husbandry officials rushed to spot and confirmed that the sheep died of anthrax disease.

District Animal Husbandry joint director Ch Ramesh told the Express that the department has sent 4 special teams to vaccinate livestock within a radius of 5 km [3.1 mi] from Kattangoor mandal headquarters [Telangana]. It would take 3 days for the vaccination, he said.

It also came to light that some people ate the meat of the dead sheep. The officials, however, said that there is no danger to them [certainly not, please see the comments below. - Mod.PKB], however the officer warned the people to avoid eating sheep meat for few days to avoid any such incidents.

Anthrax is a rare but serious illness caused by a spore-forming bacterium, *Bacillus anthracis*. Anthrax mainly affects livestock. Humans can also get infected through direct or indirect contact with sick animals. According to the officials, there's no evidence that anthrax is transmitted from person to person, but it's possible that anthrax skin lesions may be contagious through direct contact. It has been noted that, usually, anthrax bacteria enter the body through a wound in the skin. One can also become infected by eating contaminated meat or inhaling the spores, added the officials.

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[When people slaughter and process any anthrax-affected animals there is a great danger that they could also be affected with the cutaneous form of anthrax. From the news report above, it seems that there are no clinically affected people there so far, although some have reportedly consumed meat from the dead sheep. The exact date/dates when the sheep died from the disease cannot be known from the news article. However, the people, who have been physically exposed directly to the dead animals, their bodily excretions, and raw meat before consuming the meat cooked, must be kept under close supervision because cutaneous anthrax usually develops 1-7 days after exposure, but incubations as long as 17 days have been reported (<https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/yellowbook/2018/infectious-diseases-related-to-travel/anthrax>).

It is much appreciated that the authority concerned has taken an initiative to vaccinate all the livestock around a radius of 5 km (3.1 mi) from the outbreak site. That active effort would protect the animal population from anthrax there for about a year. - Mod.PKB

HealthMap/ProMED-mail map of India: <http://healthmap.org/promed/p/65107>]

See Also

Anthrax - India (03): (Odisha) cattle, human [20190323.6382613](#)
2018

Anthrax - India (16): (Andhra Pradesh) human, fatal, bovine vaccination [20181101.6123798](#)

Anthrax - India (15): (Andhra Pradesh) human, susp. [20181028.6116068](#)

Anthrax - India (13): (Odisha) human, bovine [20180725.5924600](#)

Anthrax - India (12): (Odisha) human [20180717.5909064](#)

Anthrax - India (11): (Odisha) elephant, conf [20180630.5881926](#)

Anthrax - India (04): (Andhra Pradesh) human, bovine, more cases [20180427.5771052](#)

Anthrax - India (03): (Andhra Pradesh) human, susp [20180426.5769013](#)

Anthrax - India (02): (AD) livestock, human [20180413.5743706](#)

Anthrax - India (01): (Andhra Pradesh) human, susp [20180404.5726158](#)

2017

Anthrax - India (19): (Telangana) human, susp. [20171228.5523775](#)

Anthrax - India (18): (Andhra Pradesh) ovine, humans, susp [20171023.5398650](#)

Anthrax - India (17): (Andhra Pradesh) ovine, humans [20171021.5395548](#)

Anthrax - India (14): (Andhra Pradesh) caprine, human, update [20170915.5318158](#)

Anthrax - India (13): (Andhra Pradesh) caprine, human [20170913.5312883](#)

Anthrax - India (12): (Andhra Pradesh) livestock vaccination [20170702.5143907](#)

Anthrax - India (11): (Andhra Pradesh) caprine, more human cases [20170701.5142677](#)

Anthrax - India (10): (Andhra Pradesh) caprine, human conf. [20170630.5138798](#)

2016

Anthrax - India (10): (Odisha) caprine, porcine, human, fatal [20160414.4156678](#)

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