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தேசிய டெங்கு தடுப்பு பிரிவு
சுகாதார அமைச்சு

National Dengue Control Unit

Ministry of Health



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මහජන සෞඛ්‍ය සංකීර්ණය, 555/5, ඇල්විටිගල මාවත, නාරාහේන්පිට, කොළඹ 05.
பொதுச்சுகாதாரகட்டிடத்தொகுதி, 555/5, எல்விடிகல, நாராகேள்பிட்டி, கொழும்பு 05.
Public Health Complex, 555/5, ElvitigalaMawatha, Narahenpita, Colombo 05.

My Ref. No.: NDCU/CCP2/Comm. of Alerts/2021/09

Date: 25.05.2021

All Provincial Directors of Health Services

All Regional Directors of Health Services

Prevention of Dengue Outbreaks during COVID-19 Pandemic

As experienced in previous years, the number of dengue patients is expected to increase following the activation of the South-Western monsoon rains. Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic situation, routine dengue prevention activities have been severely restricted. Door-to-door premise inspections and community clean-up campaigns 'Shramadana' are limited due to the risk of COVID-19 spread.

However, the breeding sites of the mosquitoes are increasing with the intermittent rainfall pattern. If no proactive action is taken, there is a possibility of a dengue outbreak occurring, as we are seeing an increase of dengue patients in certain areas. A dengue epidemic in the background of the COVID-19 pandemic will be detrimental for the population at risk and the healthcare system of Sri Lanka, as the initial symptoms of both diseases are similar.


Therefore, the National Dengue Control Unit urges all provincial and regional health officers to consider the current epidemiological and entomological data relevant to dengue and take the necessary preventive and control activities suitable to your area while adhering to the COVID-19 guidelines. A previous guideline titled 'Implementation of Essential Services for Prevention and Control of Dengue amid COVID-19 Pandemic in Sri Lanka' was issued by the National Dengue Control Unit on the 23rd of October 2020 and is available for reference on the National Dengue Control Unit Website (<http://www.dengue.health.gov.lk/web/index.php/en/publication-and-resources/circulars/category/16-other>). Please refer the guideline and tailor your dengue prevention and control activities depending on the need and COVID-19 situation in your area.

Please use public addressing systems to propagate knowledge on the current dengue risk and provide advice on the prevention activities when needed. Also, ensure that febrile patients seek healthcare at the earliest possible to prevent deterioration of health condition.

Once the lockdown is lifted, the Saukya Karya Sahayaka – Mosquito Control can be deployed on routine dengue prevention activities as an essential service in an area-specific manner after assessing the COVID risk situation and adhering to COVID-19 prevention guidelines. The Entomologists and the Health Entomological officers should carry out vector surveillance activities if urgently needed according to the area-specific situation.

Further, they are advised to analyse the past five-year vector surveillance data and prepare reports on area-specific (GN area-wise) vector densities and patterns to identify *Aedes aegypti*/*albopictus* prevalent areas and on the resistance monitoring carried out.

Thank you,


Director
National Dengue Control Unit

Director
National Dengue Control Unit

Copy to:

Secretary to the President – for your information

Secretary Health – For your information

Additional Secretary – PHS – For your information

Director General of Health Services – For your information

DDG PHS1 – For your information

Provincial and District Consultant Community Physicians – For necessary action and monitoring of activities

Regional Epidemiologists – For necessary action and to communicate to Medical Officers of Health

Entomologists – For necessary action and to communicate to field officers engaged in vector surveillance