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SUWASIRIPAYA

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My. No) My Ref: EPI/75/2008

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Your No.)

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Date) 29.04.2009

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Ministry of Healthcare & Nutrition

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385, Rev. Baddegama Wimalawansa Thero Mawatha, Colombo 10, Sri Lanka.

DDG (PHS) I

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Epidemiologist

Provincial Directors of Health Services

Regional Directors of Health Services

Directors of Teaching Hospitals, Provincials & General Hospitals

Officers in Charge of Medical Institutions

Re-commencement of Rubella Immunization Programme

Further to my letter No: DGHS/CIR/2009-127 dated 20th March, 2009 decision has been taken to re-commence the Rubella Immunization Programme with effect from 01st May 2009.

Investigations have revealed that the unfortunate incident which took place at Matara on 19th March 2009 has been identified as an anaphylactic shock which is a patient dependent type I hypersensitivity reaction and not due to any quality issues of the rubella vaccine used.

It is a fact that the rubella vaccine could cause anaphylactic shock, once in a million doses of rubella vaccine used and occurrence of deaths due to anaphylaxis could be avoided with early management of anaphylaxis. Guidelines on availability and use of emergency kits at immunization sessions and on management of anaphylaxis have been already circulated through my circular letter dated 23rd April 2009, attached.

Therefore, please ensure intimation to all relevant officers concerned to re-commence immunization of Rubella vaccine with effect from 01st May, 2009.

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Dr. U.A. Mendis

Director General of Health Services

- Cc: 1. Hon. Minister of Healthcare and Nutrition
2. Secretary / Healthcare and Nutrition
3. Secretary / Health (M.S)
4. D / MT&S
5. D / MSD