



WEEKLY EPIDEMIOLOGICAL REPORT

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Ministry of Health & Mass Media

231, de Saram Place, Colombo 01000, Sri Lanka

Tele: + 94 11 2695112, Fax: +94 11 2696583, E mail: epidunit@sltnet.lk

Epidemiologist: +94 11 2681548, E mail: chepid@sltnet.lk

Web: <http://www.epid.gov.lk>

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Primary Amoebic Meningitis (PAM) - Part I

*This is the first article of two in a series on
“Primary Amoebic Meningitis (PAM)”*

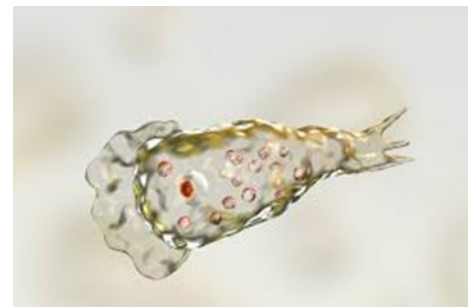
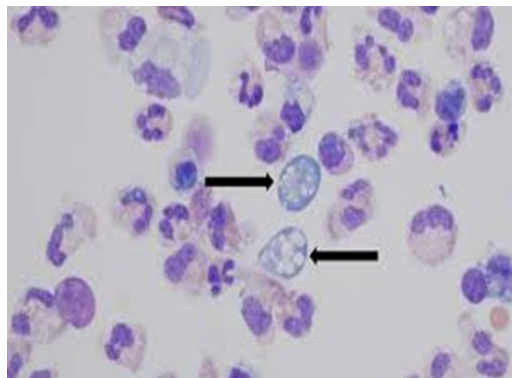


Figure 1: Microscopic appearance of *Naegleria fowleri* amoeba

This is a self-limiting, rare, and very often fatal infection caused by an amoeba named “*Naegleria fowleri*” or the brain-eating amoeba.

This had been reported since 1962, in thirty-nine countries with high case numbers from the US, Pakistan, India, Mexico, the Czech Republic and Australia. The global prevalence varies from 28%- 89% with the number of reported cases increasing at an annual rate of 1.6% per year.

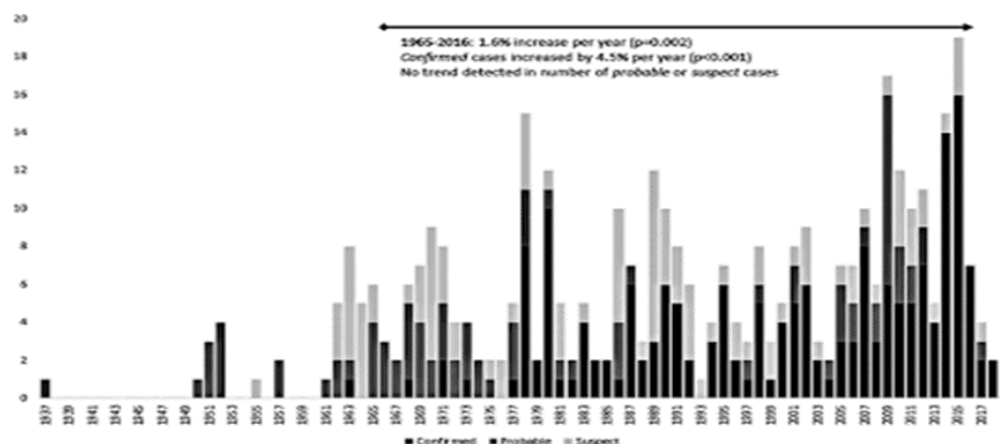


Figure 2: Reported cases of primary amoebic meningoencephalitis by case year and classification

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The highest number of cases had been reported from the US and Pakistan. As a result of the warming trends due to climate change, the case reporting had been increased in the US. Aga Khan University in Karachi reports 20 average PAM-related deaths each year, which is linked with forcefully inhaling tap water through the nose during ritual practices. Rather than swimming in the contaminated water. Inadequate water and sanitation, limited public knowledge and climate change have contributed to this situation in Pakistan. Some other studies have shown 92.9%, 35.3% and 15.0% prevalence of *Naegleria* species in environmental water samples, natural hot springs and recreational water in China, Thailand and Iran, respectively.



Figure 2: Spatial distribution of reported cases of primary amoebic meningoencephalitis in the period from 1962 to 2023.

Compiled by:

Dr Niluka Gunathilaka
CCP
Kurunegala

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Table 1: Selected notifiable diseases reported by Medical Officers of Health 18th–24th Oct 2025 (43rd Week)

RDHS	Dengue Fever		Dysentery		Encephalitis		En. Fever		F. Poisoning		Leptospirosis		Typhus F.		Viral Hep.		H. Rabies		Chickenpox		Meningitis		Leishmania-		Tuberculosis		WRCD	
	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	T*	C**
Colombo	214	9629	0	29	0	16	0	14	0	36	4	377	0	5	0	32	0	0	7	490	0	65	0	4	43	1735	89	100
Gampaha	95	6210	0	46	1	32	0	4	2	151	16	696	0	11	0	17	0	0	5	738	2	148	0	40	20	992	93	100
Kalutara	35	2096	1	36	0	6	1	20	1	93	11	551	0	3	0	7	0	0	8	753	1	45	1	3	0	489	97	96
Kandy	52	3762	1	45	0	3	0	8	0	55	7	263	0	48	1	10	0	0	14	536	0	22	0	65	14	543	83	100
Matale	24	1102	0	25	0	3	0	2	0	86	6	226	0	6	0	9	0	0	3	125	0	9	8	293	1	129	92	100
Nuwara Eliya	2	304	0	76	0	6	0	7	0	74	3	170	1	55	0	9	0	0	4	284	0	35	0	0	10	246	92	100
Galle	29	1830	3	54	0	8	0	7	0	92	15	743	1	77	1	12	1	2	11	686	2	150	0	3	10	445	85	100
Hambantota	6	786	1	39	0	7	0	2	0	9	4	330	0	30	2	16	0	0	4	272	0	25	4	304	1	126	100	100
Matara	10	1358	0	16	0	3	0	1	1	21	15	415	0	15	0	19	0	1	10	387	2	45	5	101	1	152	100	100
Jaffna	26	1060	0	83	1	3	0	18	0	46	4	139	11	447	0	3	0	2	18	301	1	27	0	0	0	180	93	93
Kilinochchi	2	87	0	14	0	1	0	4	0	7	0	64	0	12	0	1	0	0	1	10	0	1	0	2	0	42	100	100
Mannar	5	148	0	6	0	0	0	1	0	3	1	31	1	18	0	2	0	0	0	19	0	15	1	9	2	43	100	100
Vavuniya	0	79	0	10	0	0	0	1	0	38	2	82	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	47	0	21	2	19	0	54	100	100
Mullaitivu	0	54	0	6	0	0	0	1	0	26	0	53	0	10	0	1	0	0	0	32	0	8	0	4	0	29	100	100
Batticaloa	13	1634	0	130	0	15	0	4	1	201	0	108	0	2	1	26	0	0	1	171	3	33	0	1	1	121	100	100
Ampara	0	219	0	54	0	11	0	3	0	41	4	202	0	3	1	13	0	1	9	206	2	47	1	23	4	54	100	100
Trincomalee	7	936	0	40	0	4	0	2	0	78	0	125	0	9	0	5	0	1	4	120	0	12	0	9	0	116	100	100
Kurunegala	17	1417	1	43	1	18	0	2	3	60	14	634	0	25	0	7	0	1	20	791	5	150	9	534	5	315	93	100
Puttalam	5	557	2	33	0	3	0	0	1	15	7	260	1	36	0	4	0	1	1	143	5	94	0	29	2	174	100	100
Anuradhapura	4	483	0	32	0	6	0	3	0	41	2	327	1	25	0	12	0	2	4	307	0	59	24	675	5	274	64	100
Polonnaruwa	3	313	0	16	0	6	0	1	0	142	1	247	0	1	0	25	0	0	3	183	0	23	11	405	2	82	100	90
Badulla	11	710	0	32	0	12	0	3	0	11	5	271	0	34	1	72	0	0	10	361	2	76	1	64	7	248	94	100
Monaragala	17	744	2	30	1	5	0	1	0	19	5	475	1	39	3	57	0	0	9	196	2	51	5	206	2	126	100	100
Ratnapura	36	4247	1	99	0	10	0	4	3	72	28	1365	0	30	0	18	1	2	4	405	1	99	0	201	9	342	85	100
Kegalle	17	1290	0	55	0	13	0	10	0	36	24	696	0	15	0	20	0	0	16	801	1	118	1	29	1	253	82	100
Kalmunai	9	364	1	45	1	7	0	0	0	23	3	106	0	2	0	5	0	1	14	221	1	54	0	1	2	124	92	100
SRILANKA	639	41419	13	1094	5	198	1	123	12	1476	181	8956	17	968	10	402	2	14	180	8585	30	1432	73	3024	142	7434	94	99

Source: Weekly Returns of Communicable Diseases (surveillance.eph.gov.lk). T=Timeliness refers to returns received on or before 24th Oct, 2025 Total number of reporting units 360 Number of reporting units data provided for the current week: 359. C**=Completeness. A = Cases reported during the current week. B = Cumulative cases for the year.

Table 2: Vaccine-Preventable Diseases & AFP

18th – 24th Oct 2025 (43rd Week)

Disease	No. of Cases by Province									Number of cases during current week in 2025	Number of cases during same week in 2024	Total number of cases to date in 2025	Total number of cases to date in 2024	Difference between the number of cases to date in 2025 & 2024
	W	C	S	N	E	NW	NC	U	Sab					
AFP*	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	01	01	02	50	65	-23.1%
Diphtheria	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	0 %
Mumps	02	00	02	00	00	00	00	01	01	06	07	211	243	-13.16 %
Measles	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	01	01	287	-99.6%
Rubella	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	04	02	-100%
CRS**	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	01	00	0 %
Tetanus	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	09	05	80 %
Neonatal Tetanus	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	0 %
Japanese Encephalitis	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	04	11	-63.6 %
Whooping Cough	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	22	56	-60.7 %

Key to Table 1 & 2

Provinces: W: Western, C: Central, S: Southern, N: North, E: East, NC: North Central, NW: North Western, U: Uva, Sab: Sabaragamuwa.

RDHS Divisions: CB: Colombo, GM: Gampaha, KL: Kalutara, KD: Kandy, ML: Matale, NE: Nuwara Eliya, GL: Galle, HB: Hambantota, MT: Matara, JF: Jaffna, KN: Killinochchi, MN: Mannar, VA: Vavuniya, MU: Mullaitivu, BT: Batticaloa, AM: Ampara, TR: Trincomalee, KM: Kalmunai, KR: Kurunegala, PU: Puttalam, AP: Anuradhapura, PO: Polonnaruwa, BD: Badulla, MO: Moneragala, RP: Ratnapura, KG: Kegalle.

Data Sources:

Weekly Return of Communicable Diseases: Diphtheria, Measles, Tetanus, Neonatal Tetanus, Whooping Cough, Chickenpox, Meningitis, Mumps., Rubella, CRS,

Special Surveillance: AFP* (Acute Flaccid Paralysis), Japanese Encephalitis

CRS** =Congenital Rubella Syndrome

NA = Not Available

Number of Malaria Cases Up to End of October 2025,

04

All are Imported!!!

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ON STATE SERVICE

Dr. H. A. Tissera
Actg. CHIEF EPIDEMIOLOGIST
EPIDEMIOLOGY UNIT
231, DE SARAM PLACE
COLOMBO 10