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Deputy Director General, National Hospital of Sri Lanka / Kandy/ Karapitiya  
Provincial Directors of Health Services of Provinces in Selected Districts  
Regional Directors of Health Services in Selected Districts  
Directors of Teaching Hospitals/Specialized Hospitals/District General Hospitals in Selected Districts  
Medical Superintendents of Base Hospitals in Selected Districts  
Heads of other Hospitals and Healthcare Institutions in Selected Districts  
Regional Epidemiologists of Selected Districts  
Medical Officers-Maternal and Child Health of Selected Districts  
Medical Officers – Epidemiology in Selected Districts  
Medical Officers of Health in Selected Districts

**Special Measles, Rubella (MR) Immunization Week (November 4<sup>th</sup>–9<sup>th</sup>, 2024)**  
**and Follow-Up Activities**

Sri Lanka, having achieved measles elimination in 2019 has reported measles cases in several areas since May 2023. The highest incidence was observed among young adults aged 20-30 years followed by infants under 9 months awaiting their first dose of measles containing vaccine (MCV). The 20-30-year-old age group has become the primary reservoir of infection, driving the transmission.

In January 2024, in response, the Ministry of Health conducted a Supplementary Immunization Activity (SIA) targeting infants aged 6 to 9 months in selected high-risk districts and a catch-up immunization program for children aged 10 months to 15 years who had missed their routine MCV doses.

Based on the recommendations of the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Advisory Committee on Communicable Diseases (ACCD), a special immunization campaign has been planned, primarily focusing on individuals aged 20 to 30 years in selected districts. The aim of this special immunization campaign is to

address possible immunity gaps in this age cohort and thereby reduce the primary source of measles transmission.

As such an immunization week has been declared from 4<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> November 2024. The necessary details pertaining to this Special Measles, Rubella (MR) Immunization week is given as an annex titled “**Guideline on Special Measles, Rubella (MR) Immunization week (4<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> November 2024) - and Follow-Up Activities**”. This activity will be carried out in twelve high-risk districts - **Colombo (including Colombo Municipal Council), Gampaha, Kalutara (including NIHS), Galle, Matara, Puttalam, Kurunegala, Kandy, Ampara, Kalmunai, Batticaloa, and Jaffna**, comprising 206 Medical Officer of Health (MOH) areas categorized as 50 priority high risk (PHR) and 156 high risk (HR) areas.

Technical guidance and overall coordination for this special MR immunization week and follow up Activities including training of all categories of staff will be carried out by the Epidemiology Unit of the Ministry of Health. For further clarification or additional information, please contact the Epidemiology Unit.

Please ensure the content of this circular letter and the guideline is brought to the attention of all relevant officers in your province, district, institution, or unit. Further, your cooperation and support will ensure the smooth execution of this nationally important activity to protect all children and adults from this vaccine preventable diseases.



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