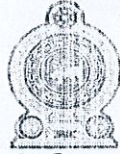




Epidemiology Unit



## Epidemiology Unit

### Ministry of Health & Indigenous Medical Services

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14<sup>th</sup> May 2020

All Provincial Directors of Health Services

All Regional Directors of Health Services

All Heads of the Institutions

#### Sustaining Leptospirosis control activities amidst COVID-19 outbreak

The paddy cultivation was delayed this "Yala" season due to stringent measures implemented in the country to control COVID-19. Subsequently the government took a decision to continue the paddy farming to ensure the rice production in the country. In addition, farmers have started cultivating abandoned paddy fields around the country to increase the rice availability. Alongside this tendency, there is a possibility of experiencing an increase in the Leptospirosis incidence, especially in areas where paddy cultivation is prevalent. Further, the Epidemiology unit has received a high number of notifications of Leptospirosis cases in the past few weeks.

Therefore, it should be ensured that the Leptospirosis surveillance activities are continued at the field level, while ensuring primary prevention through,

- Making the high-risk groups aware of the preventive measures
- Provision of Doxycycline chemoprophylaxis for high-risk groups
- Educate the public on early health care seeking in the presence of suggestive symptoms

In addition, the clinical care staff should be alerted to consider Leptospirosis as a high possibility in patients presenting with suggestive symptoms and a probable history of exposure.

Your continued support in control and prevention of Leptospirosis is immensely appreciated.

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Chief Epidemiologist

Cc: DGHS

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