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சனாதிபதி அலுவலகம்
PRESIDENTIAL SECRETARIAT



Circular Number: PS/RD/Circular/3/2022
January 12, 2022

To: All Secretaries to Ministries
All Secretaries to State Ministries
All Chief Secretaries of Provinces
All Secretaries to the Governors
All Government Agents/ District Secretaries
All Heads of Departments and
Chairmen of all State Owned Corporations/ Statutory Boards

Strengthening the Multi Sectoral Approach for Dengue Prevention and Control

The Cabinet of Ministers on December 13, 2021 decided to implement an integrated national programme for the control of dengue with the active participation of all institutions as the spread of dengue has reached an alarming level and become a major public health issue in Sri Lanka.

Recent field inspections have identified several mosquito breeding grounds in public and private institutions, construction sites, schools, religious places, fishing harbours, residential premises etc, but it has been revealed that necessary actions have not been taken in this regard. Special attention must be paid to reduce the risk of school children contracting the disease as approximately 30% of reported dengue patients are in the age group of 5-19 years.

Heads of all institutions must be committed to implement dengue control activities in national, provincial, district, rural and institution levels with the assistance of respective health officials, considering that a possible dengue epidemic situation could place a strain on the health system of the country at a time when the health sector is already engaged in containing the spread of COVID - 19.

Accordingly, I inform you to take actions as follows.

1. Measures to be taken within the organization to prevent and control dengue

- 1.1. Dengue prevention and control activities are mandatory for all ministries, departments, statutory bodies, private institutions, schools and religious places including public places to create a "Dengue Free Environment".
- 1.2. Nominate a suitable and responsible person dedicated to drive each institutional mechanism to ensure sustenance of dengue prevention and control activities, and appoint a committee including the above nominee, and assign it to actively

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engage in identifying and removing possible mosquito breeding sites and take follow up action.

- 1.3. Dengue control activities must be performed at least on a weekly basis and the Medical Officer of Health in the area shall provide necessary instructions. Institutions shall make necessary arrangements to submit a monthly report on such activities to the Medical Officer of Health.

2. Operation, supervision and coordination of dengue prevention and control activities

- 2.1 **National Dengue Control Unit** is required to coordinate all necessary activities in order to implement dengue control activities island-wide in an efficient manner.
- 2.2 National dengue control activities must be monitored under the chairmanship of the Minister of Health with the participation of Provincial Governors. The National Dengue Control Unit must be strengthened under the Director General of Health Services and an operation to enforce dengue control measures must be launched.
- 2.3 Provincial Governors shall ensure the cooperation and coordination required to be provided by stakeholders at provincial, district, divisional and grassroot levels to the health sector to combat the spread of dengue.
- 2.4 Include agenda items such as dengue and COVID- 19 epidemic control and their containment plans in the agendas of District Coordinating Committee and Divisional Coordinating Committee meetings and allocate sufficient time for district and regional health officials to review relevant facts.
- 2.5 Programmes and activities to be implemented at the regional level shall be performed under the guidance of Divisional Coordinating Committees with the active contribution of Local Government Authorities including Municipal Councils, Urban Councils and Pradeshiya Sabhas.
- 2.6 Active contribution of "Rural Committees", established at the Grama Niladhri Division level shall be obtained for dengue control programmes at the rural level.
- 2.7 District and Divisional Coordinating Committees and Rural Committees shall focus their special attention on construction sites, schools, religious places including public places at high risk of dengue, and any other place which health authorities deem as high risk areas. Necessary action shall be taken without delay to prevent the spread of dengue as per the guidelines provided by the National Dengue Control Unit and Provincial Health Ministries.
- 2.8 Provincial Directors of Health shall coordinate programmes for dengue control in schools, other educational institutions, places of worship, public places etc with the National Dengue Control Unit of the Ministry of Health.
- 2.9 Necessary steps shall be taken to include dengue control measures in the Provincial Disaster Management Plan per the instructions of the health sector and efficiently implement such measures.
- 2.10 A committee comprising **Secretary to the Ministry of Urban Development and Housing, Secretary to the Ministry of Highways, Secretary to the Ministry of Public Services, Provincial Council and Local Government, Secretary to the**

Ministry of Fisheries and Secretary to the Ministry of Health is authorized to incorporate rules and guidelines relevant to construction premises in construction agreements with the objective of dengue control, and formulate legal provisions to prevent the spread of dengue mosquitoes in bare lands, unoccupied properties and unused/abandoned or unowned boats in fishery harbours.

- 2.11 All stakeholders must provide their active contribution to the health sector on priority basis when a risk of dengue epidemic is conveyed by either national, provincial or district health sectors. Besides, all heads of institutions shall take necessary and expeditious action to deploy the required human and physical resources for dengue control activities in a timely manner.

Please prioritize all activities, including but not limited to above, in dengue prevention and control, in order to avoid spread of dengue as an epidemic, and take immediate action to convey aforesaid instructions to all institutions under your purview. The active contribution made by you and your staff to combat dengue is much appreciated.

Sgd/ PB Jayasundera

Secretary to the President

Cc:

1. Secretary to the Prime Minister
2. Secretary to the Cabinet of Ministers
3. Director General of Health Services
4. Director, National Dengue Control Unit