



Epidemiology Unit

Ministry of Health, Nutrition & Indigenous Medicine

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URGENT

All Provincial Directors of Health Services

All Regional Directors of Health Services

Ensuring uninterrupted cold chain maintenance of EPI vaccines during Power cuts and the forthcoming festival seasons

National Immunization Programme has an excellent record with extremely low incidence of vaccine preventable diseases. Maintaining high coverage and potency of the vaccines is the key to this success. Uninterrupted maintenance of cold chain is an essential aspect in maintaining vaccine potency.

During the month of April 2022, due to power failures and Sinhala and Tamil New Year holidays, please be more vigilant on maintenance of vaccine cold chain at your district RMSD and MOH offices.

Therefore, please take following measures to ensure uninterrupted cold chain monitoring in all MOH offices and RMSD, where vaccines are stored in your district, during the above period.

1. **RMSD and MOH office** :
 - a. Identify a responsible person for monitoring cold chain during the coming public holidays and in incidents of power failures and during scheduled power cuts.
 - b. Ensure monitoring and record keeping of vaccine cold chain **at least once a day** (ideally twice) during the coming public holidays.
2. **RMSD** :
 - a. Make sure the backup generators are in working condition and have enough fuel stocks.
 - b. If it is a manually operated one assign a responsible officer (with a cover-up in the absence) to operate it in the event of power failure and during scheduled power cuts.
3. MOH office: ensure full implementation of power failure contingency plans in the event of prolonged power failures.
4. Inform the immediate superior officer to take appropriate action in case of cold chain failure and power failure situations.

Your continued support for strengthening of the NIP is highly appreciated.


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Cc :- 1. DGHS

2. DDG (PHS) I

3. All Provincial and District CCPs

4. All Regional Epidemiologists – Take necessary actions and inform all MOOH

5. OIC - RMSD