



Epidemiology Unit

Ministry of Health, Nutrition & Indigenous Medicine

231, De Saram Place, Colombo 01000, Sri Lanka

Tele: (+94 11) 2695112, 4740490, 4740491, 4740492, 2681548 Fax: (+94 11) 2696583 E-mail: chepid@slt.net.lk, epidunit@slt.net.lk Web: www.epid.gov.lk

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Regional Directors of Health Services,

Discontinuation of strategy of Polio outbreak response vaccination following detection of Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP) patient in AFP surveillance

Oral Polio vaccine (OPV) had been given to 200-250 children around the patient's residence as a strategy of outbreak response once an Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP) patient has been identified. This strategy has been identified to be no more required due to maintenance of high population level immunity and OPV should not be given to children in the same locality around the detected patient's residence.


Please instruct your Regional Epidemiologist to make aware all Medical Officers of Health (MOH) and all Public Health staff attached to MOH areas in this regard.

Once an AFP patient is notified, the following actions needs to be taken hereafter:

1. Collect 5 contact stool samples (from siblings and playmates, 8-10 g, to the containers provided) : send to Polio Laboratory / Medical Research Institute, in cold box with ice packs with a request form.
2. Complete "Acute Flaccid Paralysis, Form 2" [yellow form] and forwarded to the Epidemiology Unit. In the Form please keep blank the component of "E- Outbreak Response"

While appreciating your continued support in Polio Eradication activities throughout, greatly appreciate your cooperation in this regard.

Thank you,


Dr. Paba Palihawadana
Chief Epidemiologist

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Regional Epidemiologist