



Epidemiology Unit

Ministry of Healthcare and Nutrition

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Consultative meeting with Paediatricians on Immunization related issues

The locally and internationally recognized national immunization programme of Sri Lanka suffered a severe setback due mainly to deaths of two students in Matara and Wariyapola following rubella immunization, causing an uproar among the public and health professionals on the safety of immunization. Based on similar experience, the Ministry of Health has suspended the Pentavalent vaccine from the national immunization programme in early 2008.

Hence, with the introduction of Live JE vaccine and the reintroduction of Pentavalent vaccine, on the advice of the Advisory Committee of Communicable Diseases of the Ministry of Health, it has been decided to take extra precautionary measures when immunizing high risk children. This is done in order to prevent unnecessary blame on vaccines when rare AEFIs occur due to coincidences and severe vaccine reactions.

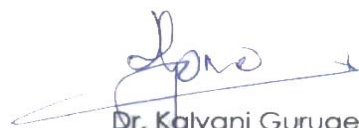
However, it has been brought to the notice of the Ministry and the Sri Lanka College of Paediatricians that during implementation of the above directives paediatricians, hospital and field health staff are experiencing various difficulties. Therefore, arrangements have been made to conduct three joint consultative meetings by the Epidemiology Unit in collaboration with Sri Lanka College of Paediatricians in Colombo, Kandy and Galle on the following days and venues commencing at 9.00 am each day to address these issues.

- 22nd February, 2010 - Colombo, LRH Auditorium
- 25th February, 2010 - Kandy Hospital Auditorium
- 05th March, 2010 - Karapitiya Hospital, Galle, Auditorium

A draft agenda is attached hereto for your kind perusal. Your participation in this important meeting at the venue closest to you is greatly appreciated.

Your continued support for the immunization programme of Sri Lanka is invaluable.


Dr. Paba Palihawadana
Chief Epidemiologist


Dr. Kalyani Guruge,
President,
Sri Lanka College of Paediatricians

Joint meeting/discussion with paediatricians by Epidemiological Unit of the Ministry of Health and College of Paediatricians in issues pertaining to national immunization programme

22nd February 2010 - Colombo, LRH Auditorium
25th February 2010 - Kandy Hospital Auditorium
5th March 2010 – Karapitiya Hospital, Galle, Auditorium

Agenda

9.00 am	Welcome	Chief Epidemiologist
9.15 am	Objectives of the meeting	President, College of Paediatricians
9.30 am	Achievements strengths & challenges of the EPI programme Sri Lanka	Dr. Sudath Peiris, Asst Epidemiologist
10. 30. am	Tea break	
10. 45. am	Discussion moderated by Chief Epidemiologist & President, College of Paediatricians	
12. 30. pm	Lunch	
1.30 pm	Conclusion	