



Epidemiology Unit

Ministry of Health

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All RDHS,

RE: Controlling and preventing the current Leptospirosis outbreak following floods and heavy rains

Following the floods that we experienced during the last few months, we are witnessing an outbreak of Leptospirosis in certain parts of Sri Lanka. Some of the increased reporting is from districts which have traditionally had a low number of cases and non-endemic districts. Most affected districts at present are Anuradhapura and Kurunegala. **All RDHS are therefore advised to consider control and prevention of Leptospirosis following floods as a priority health issue and act accordingly.**

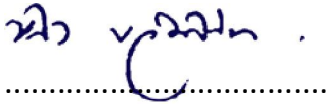
Please ensure the following:

- **Establish a district level Leptospirosis activity coordinating committee** and include key stakeholders of Public health and curative sector and other necessary sectors.
- Ensure adequate stocks of **Doxycycline are available for chemoprophylaxis** to target groups (if necessary)
- Discuss with the clinicians and ensure necessary drugs (including antibiotics) are available for management of cases in the hospitals
- **Increase community awareness** through local level and regional level awareness programmes. It should be emphasized that patients seek healthcare very early with initial symptoms from a government hospital or a qualified medical practitioner to prevent deaths and complications.

- **Improve surveillance:** Improving surveillance is the most important measure for controlling outbreaks as early detection would enable to take timely action.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any assistance or clarifications in this regard

Thanking you



Dr Paba Palihawadana

Chief Epidemiologist

Epidemiology Unit

CC:

Secretary – Ministry of Health

Additional Secretary (Medical Services) – Ministry of Health

DGHS

DDH (PHS) – I

PDHS – All provinces

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