

Media release

## **Update on COVID-19 situation**

21.05.2025

In recent weeks there has been an upsurge of COVID-19 infections in several Asian countries. The increase in cases could be due to several factors, including waning population immunity. In light of this situation, the Ministry of Health has intensified the preparatory measures to ensure national readiness and protect public health. These actions are precautionary and form part of possible future outbreak preparedness and response. There is no cause for alarm, and there is no evidence of a new variant of COVID-19 infection spreading in Sri Lanka.

COVID-19 monitoring has been ongoing through selected hospitals across the country, as part of the integrated respiratory surveillance system, where clinical samples are tested for COVID-19 infection. At present, disease surveillance indicates that there is no increase in COVID-19 cases. Laboratory systems remain active and sensitive for early detection of possible outbreaks.

As with other respiratory diseases (such as influenza) periodic COVID-19 infection could be expected in the future. The current risk to the general public remains low. However, special attention should be given to vulnerable groups such as the elderly, immunocompromised individuals, and individuals with chronic diseases.

The Ministry of Health ensures that timely and accurate information will be shared with the general public as necessary. The hospital system has the capacity and is prepared to handle any possible future outbreaks. The evolving situation will be closely monitored and the public is advised to stay informed through official channels. Maintaining basic hygiene practices and respiratory etiquette including frequent hand washing and covering one's nose and mouth when coughing and sneezing should be practiced.