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Date ) 01/12/2025

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To All  
Provincial Directors of Health Services  
Regional Directors of Health Services  
DDGs of National Hospitals  
Directors of Teaching / Provincial General Hospitals  
Medical Superintendents of District General / Base Hospitals  
Medical Directors of Tri-Forces and Police  
Director of Prison Health Services  
Director of National Institute of Health Sciences  
Chief Medical Officer of Colombo Municipal Council  
All Medical Officers in Charge of Divisional Hospitals  
All Medical Officers of Health

### Health and Emergency Response - Flood and landslide 2025

Due to the heavy showers experienced in most parts of the country during the past few days, several landslides have occurred, and large land areas in most parts of the country have been flooded. The health sector has to be on the alert and be proactive to mitigate any communicable disease threat while ensuring an urgent and prompt response is provided to minimize further suffering for the people affected.

The health institutions should assist in the Provincial/District emergency response plans which are coordinated by the District Disaster Management Units. Bring the content of these circular instructions to all staff in your Province/District/Institution to ensure that the following urgent actions are taken during this emergency period.

- Take urgent steps to prevent the spread of communicable diseases due to floods and landslides, based on the latest instructions, guidelines and formats issued by the Epidemiology Unit. Disease surveillance information in flood-affected areas needs to be sent on a daily basis to the Epidemiology Unit and the Disaster Management Unit.
- Ensure that the guidelines given in the circular letter 02-08/2011 dated 12/10/2011 on implementation of MCH/FP services in flood-affected areas in the emergency phase and the Guideline on feeding infants and children 1-5 years during an emergency situation are implemented.




Further to the above the following should be implemented with immediate effect.

1. All temporary shelters and affected communities should be assigned a camp coordinator, preferably a public health inspector, a public health midwife (if PHI not available). The name and contact details should be sent to the Disaster Management Unit and the Epidemiology Unit.
2. A daily situation report should be submitted by the camp coordinator to the respective MOH, who should send a consolidated report daily to the Regional Director of Health Services, Provincial Director of Health Services and the Disaster Management Unit of the Ministry of Health.
3. The Medical Officer of Health through Public Health Inspectors should ensure food safety, water safety, sanitation and environmental safety measures and report the status in the daily statement. Any communicable disease reported should be investigated immediately, and steps should be taken to mitigate the spread of the disease.
4. All pregnant mothers in displaced settings in their third trimester (> 36 weeks of POA) of pregnancy should be admitted to the nearest hospital and provided antenatal/ essential obstetric care until such time that these mothers can return to their place of residence.
5. Medical teams should be deployed at least daily to provide basic treatment for those displaced and in temporary shelters.
6. Instruct all Regional Medical Supplies Division to provide essential drugs directly to the temporary shelters to facilitate the provision of basic medical services.
7. Emergency Ambulances transport facilities should be made available 24/7 to transport any patient from the temporary shelters and affected communities to a referral hospital.
8. Establish routine maternal and child health activities for the displaced communities early and plan for comprehensive maternal and child health services including immunization for the population with long term displacement.

For any urgent clarification and support contact the hotline 0112695112 or [chepid@sltnet.lk](mailto:chepid@sltnet.lk) of the Epidemiology Unit and 01127446508 (email: [dprdmoh@gmail.com](mailto:dprdmoh@gmail.com)) of the Disaster Management Unit, Ministry of Health.

The updated guideline on Public Health Measures to be adopted in the event of floods and landslides is annexed herewith.

  
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