



# WEEKLY EPIDEMIOLOGICAL REPORT

A publication of the Epidemiology Unit  
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## Autism spectrum disorders Part II

This is the Second in a series of three articles on Autism spectrum disorders

people

Main Characteristics are

### Restricted and repetitive patterns of behaviours, interests or activities

#### Social interaction and communication problems:

- Difficulties in normal back-and-forth conversation
- Rarely sharing the enjoyment of objects or activities by pointing or showing things to others
- Failing to or being slow to, respond to someone calling their name or to other verbal attempts to gain attention
- Often talking at length about a favourite subject without noticing that others are not interested or without giving others a chance to respond
- Having facial expressions, movements, and gestures that do not match with what is being said
- Having an unusual tone of voice that may sound sing-song or flat and robot-like
- Having trouble in understanding another person's point of view or being unable to predict or understand other people's actions
- Deficits in developing/maintaining/understanding relationships

- Repeating certain behaviours or having unusual behaviours. For example, repeating words or phrases, a behaviour called *echolalia*
- Hand-flapping and toe-walking
- Playing with toys in an uncommon way (such as lining up cars or flipping objects)
- Having a lasting intense interest in certain topics, such as numbers, details, or facts
- Having overly focused interests, such as with moving objects or parts of objects
- Getting upset by slight changes in a routine
- Being more or less sensitive than other people to sensory input, such as light, noise, clothing or temperature

People with ASD may also experience sleep problems, seizures, mental illnesses and irritability.

They may have many strengths such as

#### Difficulty relating to people, things and events

- Trouble making friends and interacting with people
- Difficulty in reading facial expressions
- Making little or inconsistent eye contact
- Tending not to look at or listen to

- Being able to learn things in detail and remember information for long periods of time
- Being strong visual and auditory learners
- Excelling in maths, science, music, or art

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1. Failure to make eye contact by the age of six months
2. Failure to share objects, smiles or emotions by the age of nine months
3. Failure to develop speech or regression of acquired speech by the age of one year
4. Failure to use gestures to communicate by the age of one year
5. Failure to respond calls and commands by the age of one year
6. Failure to utilize meaningful words by one year to eighteen months
7. Failure to point out what child wants by one year to eighteen months
8. Failure to join with someone to share an interest by one year to eighteen months
9. Failure to engage in imitative play by eighteen months
10. Failure to engage in simple meaningful conversation by two years

**Causes and Risk Factors**

The available scientific evidence does not show the exact causes of ASD. Research has suggested that many factors including genes can act together with the impact from the environment may lead to ASD. Some risk factors include

- Having a sibling with ASD
  - Having older parents
  - Having certain genetic conditions—conditions such as Down syndrome, fragile X syndrome, and Rett syndrome are more likely than others to have ASD
  - Very low birth weight
- The available data have not shown any evidence of the correlation between measles, mumps, rubella or any other childhood vaccine and the development of ASD.

**Compiled by-**

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**Table 1 : Water Quality Surveillance  
Number of microbiological water samples May 2019**

District	MOH areas	No: Expected *	No: Received
Colombo	15	90	<b>30</b>
Gampaha	15	90	<b>NR</b>
Kalutara	12	72	<b>NR</b>
Kalutara NIHS	2	12	<b>NR</b>
Kandy	23	138	<b>NR</b>
Matale	13	78	<b>NR</b>
Nuwara Eliya	13	78	<b>NR</b>
Galle	20	120	<b>NR</b>
Matara	17	102	<b>133</b>
Hambantota	12	72	<b>NR</b>
Jaffna	12	72	<b>197</b>
Kilinochchi	4	24	<b>42</b>
Manner	5	30	<b>NR</b>
Vavuniya	4	24	<b>NR</b>
Mullatvu	5	30	<b>NR</b>
Batticaloa	14	84	<b>83</b>
Ampara	7	42	<b>NR</b>
Trincomalee	11	66	<b>NR</b>
Kurunegala	29	174	<b>122</b>
Puttalam	13	78	<b>15</b>
Anuradhapura	19	114	<b>20</b>
Polonnaruwa	7	42	<b>35</b>
Badulla	16	96	<b>86</b>
Moneragala	11	66	<b>114</b>
Rathnapura	18	108	<b>NR</b>
Kegalle	11	66	<b>8</b>
Kalmunai	13	78	<b>NR</b>

\* No of samples expected (6 / MOH area / Month)  
NR = Return not received

Table 1: Selected notifiable diseases reported by Medical Officers of Health 08<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> June 2019 (24<sup>th</sup>Week)

RDHS Division	Dengue Fever		Dysentery		Encephalitis		Enteric Fever		Food Poisoning		Leptospirosis		Typhus Fever		Viral Hepatitis		Human Rabies		Chickenpox		Meningitis		Leishmaniasis		WRCD		
	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	T*	C**	
Colombo	280	4790	0	25	1	5	0	10	0	27	4	97	0	7	0	5	0	0	9	258	0	27	0	3	100	100	
Gampaha	152	2972	2	18	0	3	0	3	0	15	2	55	0	2	0	3	0	1	0	222	0	12	1	74	97	98	
Kalutara	156	1635	0	36	0	5	1	11	2	40	17	272	0	4	0	4	1	1	11	384	1	60	0	3	95	95	
Kandy	71	1371	6	54	1	9	1	2	0	11	2	41	3	49	0	2	0	1	4	153	2	34	1	24	100	100	
Matale	12	241	1	16	0	3	0	0	0	4	1	30	0	4	0	3	1	2	2	48	0	3	2	119	100	100	
Nuwaraweliya	5	91	3	71	0	1	2	6	1	2	3	29	1	44	0	4	0	0	5	55	0	25	0	0	100	100	
Galle	238	1883	1	27	1	5	0	3	0	5	13	195	0	24	3	8	0	0	17	238	0	32	0	2	98	99	
Hambantota	35	556	0	4	0	2	0	0	0	5	2	60	2	73	0	2	0	1	6	201	0	20	26	414	100	100	
Matara	103	834	0	8	0	4	0	1	0	8	17	180	1	20	1	16	0	0	7	170	2	8	16	273	100	100	
Jaffna	8	1928	3	100	0	8	1	17	1	32	0	22	2	260	0	3	0	0	9	164	0	12	0	0	93	93	
Kilinochchi	1	101	0	9	0	1	0	9	0	0	0	18	0	24	0	1	0	0	0	3	0	3	0	7	98	100	
Mannar	1	74	0	2	0	1	0	7	0	1	0	1	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	100	100
Vavuniya	2	176	2	8	0	9	0	19	3	6	0	41	0	4	0	0	0	0	5	58	0	8	0	1	97	99	
Mullaitivu	1	103	0	6	0	0	0	7	0	2	1	18	0	6	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	5	0	4	98	99	
Batticaloa	10	865	3	55	0	2	0	11	0	4	2	31	0	1	0	0	0	1	10	160	3	14	0	0	99	100	
Ampara	9	115	2	34	0	2	0	0	0	7	0	22	0	1	0	10	0	0	3	108	0	7	0	4	100	100	
Trincomalee	25	712	1	10	0	0	0	0	2	16	0	7	1	4	0	2	0	0	11	135	0	5	0	1	99	100	
Kurunegala	20	801	2	37	2	10	0	4	0	15	2	105	0	12	0	15	0	0	13	386	3	51	6	428	100	100	
Puttalam	24	290	1	16	0	2	0	1	0	2	1	23	0	9	0	1	0	0	4	104	1	25	0	7	100	100	
Anuradhapura	15	262	1	24	0	6	1	4	0	4	1	86	0	26	1	18	0	2	11	340	2	51	5	273	96	97	
Polonnaruwa	15	151	0	14	0	2	0	1	1	1	1	49	1	4	0	15	1	1	2	210	0	12	3	141	99	100	
Badulla	13	333	3	38	1	5	0	6	0	67	5	105	4	62	0	13	0	0	2	163	3	112	0	11	100	100	
Monaragala	10	234	0	31	0	4	0	0	0	77	3	154	1	61	1	36	0	0	7	172	4	93	1	13	100	100	
Ratnapura	70	1111	2	51	0	23	1	7	0	11	18	409	0	19	0	16	0	4	4	222	2	82	0	80	99	99	
Kegalle	34	631	0	23	1	12	0	1	0	22	11	106	4	28	0	77	0	0	17	278	3	25	2	22	100	100	
Kalmune	11	497	1	22	0	0	0	1	0	9	2	22	1	3	0	1	0	0	5	136	1	15	0	0	100	100	
<b>SRI LANKA</b>	<b>1321</b>	<b>22757</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>739</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>393</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2178</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>759</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>4371</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>742</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>1905</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>99</b>	

Source: Weekly Returns of Communicable Diseases (WRCD).  
 \*T=Timeliness refers to returns received on or before 14<sup>th</sup> June, 2019 Total number of reporting units 353 Number of reporting units data provided for the current week. 325 C\*\*=Completeness  
 A = Cases reported during the current week. B = Cumulative cases for the year.

**Table 2: Vaccine-Preventable Diseases & AFP**

08<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> June 2019 (24<sup>th</sup> Week)

Disease	No. of Cases by Province									Number of cases during current week in 2019	Number of cases during same week in 2018	Total number of cases to date in 2019	Total number of cases to date in 2018	Difference between the number of cases to date in 2019 & 2018
	W	C	S	N	E	NW	NC	U	Sab					
AFP*	01	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	01	02	39	29	34.4 %
Diphtheria	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	0 %
Mumps	00	00	01	00	02	00	01	00	01	05	04	175	175	0 %
Measles	01	04	01	01	00	00	01	01	01	09	02	162	60	170 %
Rubella	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	04	0 %
CRS**	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	0 %
Tetanus	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	08	11	- 27.2 %
Neonatal Tetanus	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	0 %
Japanese Encephalitis	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	09	15	- 40 %
Whooping Cough	02	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	02	01	33	28	17.8 %
Tuberculosis	62	09	04	09	00	29	00	03	25	141	84	3897	3815	2.1 %

**Key to Table 1 & 2**

**Provinces:** W: Western, C: Central, S: Southern, N: North, E: East, NC: North Central, NW: North Western, U: Uva, Sab: Sabaragamuwa.  
**RDHS Divisions:** CB: Colombo, GM: Gampaha, KL: Kalutara, KD: Kandy, ML: Matale, NE: Nuwara Eliya, GL: Galle, HB: Hambantota, MT: Matara, JF: Jaffna, KN: Killinochchi, MN: Mannar, VA: Vavuniya, MU: Mullaitivu, BT: Batticaloa, AM: Ampara, TR: Trincomalee, KM: Kalmunai, KR: Kurunegala, PU: Puttalam, AP: Anuradhapura, PO: Polonnaruwa, BD: Badulla, MO: Moneragala, RP: Ratnapura, KG: Kegalle.

**Data Sources:**  
**Weekly Return of Communicable Diseases:** Diphtheria, Measles, Tetanus, Neonatal Tetanus, Whooping Cough, Chickenpox, Meningitis, Mumps., Rubella, CRS,  
**Special Surveillance:** AFP\* (Acute Flaccid Paralysis), Japanese Encephalitis  
**CRS\*\*** =Congenital Rubella Syndrome  
**NA** = Not Available

Influenza Surveillance in Sentinel Hospitals - ILI & SARI							
Month	Human				Animal		
	No Total	No Positive	Infl A	Infl B	Pooled samples	Serum Samples	Positives
June	78	16	14	2			

Source: Medical Research Institute & Veterinary Research Institute

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