



WEEKLY EPIDEMIOLOGICAL REPORT

A publication of the Epidemiology Unit
Ministry of Health, Nutrition & Indigenous Medicine

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Vol. 49 No. 29

16th– 22nd July 2022

Mysterious Hepatitis outbreak in children Part II

This is the last of a series of 2 articles.

Is it an outbreak?

Scientists are still working to find out whether there is a true outbreak of acute hepatitis. United Kingdom health security announced a rise in the number of young children with serious liver disease in early April. At that time the agency reported sixty cases of severe acute hepatitis in children in 2022 so far, where they usually see around twenty during a year.

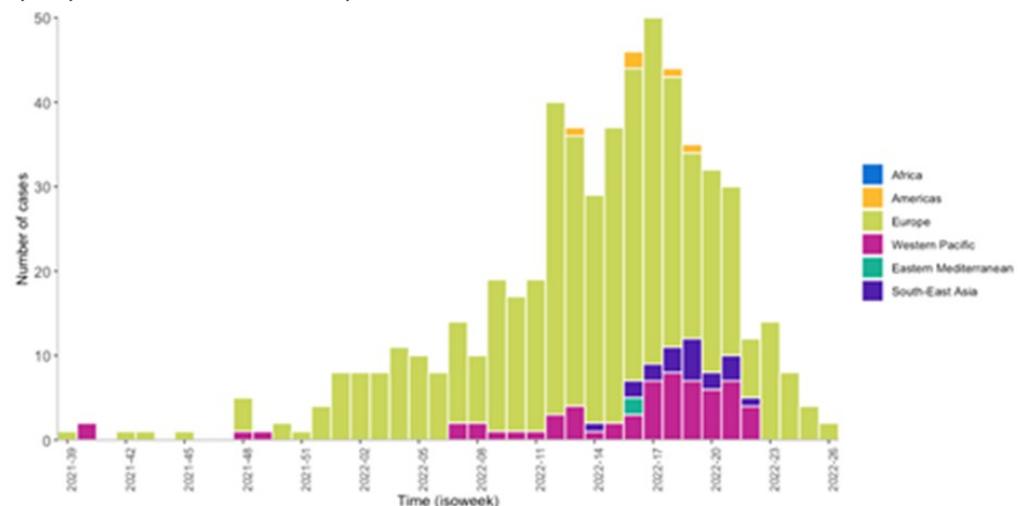
As of the 8th of July 2022, there has been a reported caseload of 1010 across 35 countries around the world. Since then, there have been 90 new cases of mysterious hepatitis and four additional deaths with the disease spreading into two new countries, as per a report published by the WHO on the 24th of July.

Nevertheless, the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention in the USA has this month reported no increase compared with the pre-pandemic level in hospitalizations of

paediatric liver disease, and liver transplants between October 2021 and March 2022.

However, further work is being carried out to discover whether a true outbreak is unfolding, where WHO has already launched a global survey to estimate and compare the new cases of acute hepatitis of unknown origin during the year 2022 with the previous five years. The survey will help to determine whether mysterious hepatitis cases and liver transplants are occurring at higher-than-expected rates.

Figure 1 – Epidemiological curve of probable cases of severe acute hepatitis of unknown aetiology with available data, by week, by WHO region, as of July 2022 (n=571)



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WEEKLY
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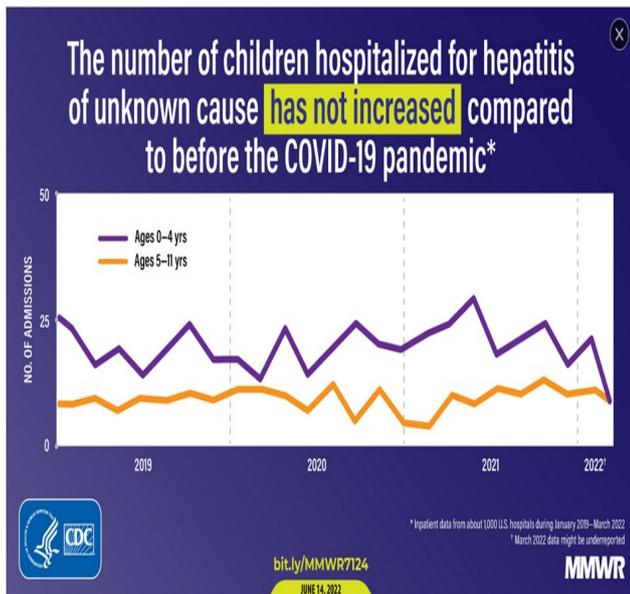
Infection prevention and control

It is advisable to practice general infection control measures until more information about the aetiology of the disease is understood. These include;

- Performing frequent hand hygiene
- Avoiding crowded places and maintaining distance from others
- Ensuring good indoor ventilation
- Wearing well-fitted mask
- Using safe water for drinking and safe food
- Seeking prompt medical attention when unwell

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**Table 1 : Water Quality Surveillance
Number of microbiological water samples June 2022**

District	MOH areas	No: Expected *	No: Received
Colombo	15	90	NR
Gampaha	15	90	NR
Kalutara	12	72	NR
Kalutara NIHS	2	12	NR
Kandy	23	138	NR
Matale	13	78	0
Nuwara Eliya	13	78	NR
Galle	20	120	NR
Matara	17	102	NR
Hambantota	12	72	NR
Jaffna	12	72	71
Kilinochchi	4	24	NR
Manner	5	30	0
Vavuniya	4	24	NR
Mullatvu	5	30	NR
Batticaloa	14	84	NR
Ampara	7	42	NR
Trincomalee	11	66	NR
Kurunegala	29	174	NR
Puttalam	13	78	NR
Anuradhapura	19	114	NR
Polonnaruwa	7	42	0
Badulla	16	96	NR
Moneragala	11	66	NR
Rathnapura	18	108	NR
Kegalle	11	66	7
Kalmunai	13	78	NR

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

Table 1: Selected notifiable diseases reported by Medical Officers of Health 09th- 15th Jul 2022 (28th Week)

RDHS	Dengue Fever		Dysentery		Encephaliti		Enteric Fever		Food Poi-		Leptospirosis		Typhus		Viral Hep-		Human		Chickenpox		Meningitis		Leishmania-		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	13	6847	0	3	0	3	0	0	0	5	2	101	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	17	1	7	0	2	14	94
Gampaha	72	3715	0	5	0	1	0	0	12	1	81	0	0	0	0	6	0	2	0	24	1	22	0	24	5	72	
Kalutara	35	2148	0	8	0	1	0	1	0	6	4	201	0	2	0	2	0	2	0	3	37	1	16	0	1	2	1
Kandy	20	2327	0	12	0	0	0	2	0	4	10	90	1	21	1	8	0	0	0	35	0	5	0	13	12	97	
Matale	20	522	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	68	0	3	0	2	0	0	3	13	0	1	8	194	18	97	
NuwaraEliya	5	129	0	14	0	0	0	2	0	0	5	41	0	10	0	1	0	0	0	24	0	2	0	0	22	96	
Galle	13	2189	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	242	0	11	0	2	0	0	2	40	0	12	0	0	11	97	
Hambantota	57	800	0	24	0	0	0	0	2	7	133	2	25	1	4	0	0	0	0	19	0	6	11	271	16	97	
Matara	63	921	1	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	153	1	7	0	1	0	0	1	22	0	6	3	172	28	100	
Jaiffna	48	2239	2	31	0	2	2	55	2	27	0	19	2	405	0	5	0	4	1	70	0	8	0	0	63	88	
Kilinochchi	2	91	1	5	0	0	0	1	1	20	0	11	1	9	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	1	0	1	31	100	
Mannar	1	168	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	0	3	0	2	0	0	0	5	0	15	0	0	20	75	
Vavuniya	0	57	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	12	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	2	2	76	
Mullaitivu	1	40	0	4	0	0	0	2	0	3	1	21	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	1	0	1	22	93	
Batticaloa	28	941	0	44	0	7	0	0	0	20	0	28	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	12	2	25	0	1	35	99	
Ampara	6	107	0	7	0	1	0	0	0	17	2	74	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	35	1	16	0	12	10	95	
Trincomalee	6	945	0	22	0	0	0	1	0	2	1	18	0	3	0	4	0	0	0	29	0	4	1	1	18	82	
Kurunegala	53	1625	1	11	0	1	0	0	0	4	4	86	0	18	0	0	0	1	0	37	1	22	11	292	8	95	
Puttalam	10	1181	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	18	0	4	15	86	
Anuradhapur	0	217	0	8	0	2	0	1	0	5	0	110	0	18	0	2	0	1	1	29	0	23	1	219	9	83	
Polonnaruwa	1	77	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	78	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	9	0	3	0	233	17	82	
Badulla	21	650	1	13	0	1	0	0	0	5	5	119	1	29	6	86	0	0	0	36	2	10	0	14	15	99	
Monaragala	16	271	1	6	0	1	0	4	0	2	3	205	1	19	2	30	0	0	0	37	5	31	4	86	10	99	
Ratnapura	80	1452	0	27	0	5	0	3	1	25	33	540	0	14	0	15	0	0	0	46	3	32	0	119	12	92	
Kegalle	84	1367	0	9	0	5	0	1	0	5	5	315	0	13	0	3	0	0	1	59	0	29	1	15	8	97	
Kalmune	25	627	0	24	0	0	0	1	1	6	2	16	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	33	2	23	0	0	29	98	
SRILANKA	10	31653	7	305	0	31	2	76	5	171	11	2792	9	624	10	18	0	11	13	689	19	338	40	1677	17	92	

Source: Weekly Returns of Communicable Diseases (esurveillance.epid.gov.lk). T=Timeliness refers to returns received on or before 08th July, 2022 Total number of reporting units 361 Number of reporting units data provided for the current week: 274 C**-Completeness

Table 2: Vaccine-Preventable Diseases & AFP

09th- 15th Jul 2022 (28th Week)

Disease	No. of Cases by Province									Number of cases during current week in 2022	Number of cases during same week in 2021	Total number of cases to date in 2022	Total number of cases to date in 2021	Difference between the number of cases to date in 2022 & 2021
	W	C	S	N	E	NW	NC	U	Sab					
AFP*	00	01	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	01	01	44	25	76 %
Diphtheria	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	0 %
Mumps	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	02	35	48	- 34.8 %
Measles	00	00	00	00	01	00	00	00	00	01	00	14	10	20 %
Rubella	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	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	05	02	150 %
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	01	00	0 %
Whooping Cough	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	01	00	0 %
Tuberculosis	00	08	02	18	09	20	00	06	21	84	280	3134	2906	7.8 %

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

Influenza Surveillance in Sentinel Hospitals - ILI & SARI							
Month	Human				Animal		
	No Total	No Positive	Infl A	Infl B	Pooled samples	Serum Samples	Positives
July							

Source: Medical Research Institute & Veterinary Research Institute

Comments and contributions for publication in the WER Sri Lanka are welcome. However, the editor reserves the right to accept or reject items for publication. All correspondence should be mailed to The Editor, WER Sri Lanka, Epidemiological Unit, P.O. Box 1567, Colombo or sent by E-mail to chepid@sltnet.lk. **Prior approval should be obtained from the Epidemiology Unit before publishing data in this publication**

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