



MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICES

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Press Release on Dengue Fever and Leptospirosis

The Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MHMS) urges the public to remain vigilant and take protective measures against Dengue Fever, following the Dengue Fever outbreak declaration for the Western Division on February 3, 2025 and Leptospirosis following the recent heavy rain and flooding in all parts of the funding.

The surge in Dengue Fever cases this year is attributed to the heavy rainfall and flooding that have impacted the country over the past months. From the 1st of January to the 23rd of March this year there have been **5,128**, Dengue Fever cases reported nationally. The Western Division in which the outbreak was declared on the 3rd of February this year continues to drive the trends with **2,841** laboratory confirmed cases recorded. The Central Division has recorded 1090 cases with rising numbers, the Northern Division recorded **1095** cases, and the Eastern Division has recorded **102** laboratory confirmed cases.

Leptospirosis cases from the 1st of January to the 23rd of March this year stands at **818** cases for the nationally. The Central Division has recorded **307** cases to date, **228** cases from the Northern Division, **252** cases from the Western Division and 31 cases from the Eastern Division.

Typhoid cases from the 1st of January to the 23rd of March stands at **31** laboratory confirmed cases with **16** cases from the Western Division, **9** cases in the Central Division, **5** cases from the Northern Division and **1** laboratory confirmed case recorded in the Eastern Division.

The approach to ensuring effective interventions involves continuous house to house surveillance, larval sampling, application of larvicides to destroy mosquito larvae and adult mosquito spraying with the implementation of clean-up campaigns to remove and destroy mosquito breeding sites. Health teams continue to conduct health awareness programs to educate the general public on the necessary measures to prevent the spread and safeguard themselves from dengue fever. Additionally, health inspectors continue to conduct site inspections and issue abatement notices and fine members of the public whose properties have mere presence of mosquitoes in their compound which is an offense under the Public Health Act Cap 111. These public health interventions are being conducted in all six subdivisions within the Western Division. Similar programs are conducted in the remaining three divisions as part of proactive measures.

The public is encouraged to pay attention to advisories related to Dengue and Leptospirosis that have been communicated through various media platforms.

The Ministry encourages individuals to educate themselves about Dengue Fever, implement preventive measures, and seek medical attention promptly if symptoms arise.

Clinicians have been reminded to manage suspected leptospirosis cases in accordance with recommended clinical management guidelines, and virtual awareness sessions on clinical management have been conducted. This is to encourage early recognition, treatment, and referral of cases as required. Divisional and Subdivisional health teams have also been trained to investigate cases and implement necessary public health prevention and control measures, including the collaboration with relevant animal health authorities for targeted vector surveillance and control.

More cases of leptospirosis are expected every year during the rainy season from October to April and following periods of adverse weather conditions. In anticipation of this increase in cases, of communicable diseases, such as leptospirosis, and to advise the public on prevention of such diseases. Awareness continues both in mass media and on official MHMS social media pages. Community engagement by the Ministry's Divisional and Subdivisional teams has also continued throughout the rainy season.

We continue to urge the public to learn about leptospirosis, take precautions to prevent infection, and present early to a medical facility should you develop symptoms.

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