



MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICES

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Press Release on Dengue Fever

The Ministry of Health & 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 the recent heavy rain and flooding following the aftermath of Tropical Cyclone Rae. All divisions are advised to stay alert.

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 9th of March** this year there have been **3671 dengue cases reported** nationally. The Western Division in which the outbreak was declared on the 3rd of February continues to lead the trend with 2077 laboratory confirmed cases reported.

The Central Division has reported 775 cases, the Northern Division reported 748 cases, and the Eastern Division has recorded 71 laboratory confirmed cases.

There have been 952 Dengue hospital admissions from the first of January to the 23rd of March 2025 with more cases expected as health facilities continue to report cases. The Central Division has reported a total of 178 cases. The Western Division has reported a total of 598 dengue admissions with 1 confirmed dengue fever death. The Northern Division has reported 170 dengue admissions with 2 confirmed dengue fever deaths. The Eastern Division has reported 6 dengue fever cases to date.

The Ministry has conducted and continues to conduct public health interventions in response to the Dengue Fever outbreak that was declared in the Western Division and rising case in the other divisions.

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.

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