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சுவசிரிபாய  
SUWASIRIPAYA

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சுகாதார அமைச்சு  
Ministry of Health

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எனது இல )  
My No. ) NPTCCD /HEU/TB D (Eng) /2022/163

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Your No. : )

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திகதி )  
Date ) 28 /02/2022

General Circular No: - 01-08/2022

All Provincial Directors of Health Services,  
All Regional Directors of Health Services,  
Heads of Medical Institutions,  
Directors of Special Campaigns,  
Director / National Institute of Health Sciences,  
Chief Medical Officer of Health / Colombo Municipal Council,  
All DTCOs,  
All Medical Officers of Health,  
Heads of Private Medical Institutions,

### World TB Day – 24<sup>th</sup> March 2022

The World TB Day will be commemorated on 24<sup>th</sup> of March 2022 under the theme of “Invest to End TB. Save Lives”.

Sri Lanka has committed to End TB by 2035, by reducing the incidence and mortality of TB to lower levels (Incidence target: <10/100000 from 64/100,000 in 2021; Mortality target: <32 deaths per year from 602 reported in 2019).

Currently, TB reports the third leading incidence and second leading mortality rate among infectious diseases in Sri Lanka. However, current case detection of TB in Sri Lanka falls short of WHO estimates (64/100000). According to WHO, an estimated 13 500 TB patients should be detected each year, however currently only around 8000-9000 TB patients are detected yearly resulting a deficit of around 3000 – 4000 undiagnosed TB patients in the community.

According to National Strategic Plan:2021-2025, the National Programme for Tuberculosis aims to detect and successfully treat 10000 TB patients annually; to give TB preventive treatment to 11000 infected individuals annually while private sector health services are expected to contribute by 30% for total TB case detection.

In line with the national targets, island wide programmes including the national event will be held to commemorate the world TB Day this year.

These programmes should be implemented at the levels of Provincial Directorate of Health Services (PDHS), Regional Directorate of Health Services (RDHS), Medical Officer of Health divisions (MOH) and Health Institutions of the Line Ministry and Provincial Health Ministries.

Private Medical Institutions including private hospitals and general practitioners are also encouraged to implement these activities in line with above NSP targets.

## **1. Proposed activities:**

### **1.1. Provincial / District level activities**

Programmes should be organized and conducted by Provincial Directorate of Health Services, Regional Director of Health Services and other heads of Health institutions.

- Awareness programmes targeting high risk groups, health care staff, staff of govt. & private institutions and the community.
- TB to be included as an agenda item to increase awareness during the events scheduled within the week 20.03.2020 – 26.03.2022.

### **1.2. Activities at the level of Medical Officer of Health**

- Awareness programmes for health staff, high risk groups, govt. & private institutions and community should be arranged by the MOH staff.
  - Groups to be targeted: Paediatric age group, pregnant mothers, elders' homes etc.
- TB to be taken as the health topic at clinic sessions at the MOH/institution during the TB Day /week and regularly.

### **1.3 Activities at the level of health institutions**

- Awareness programmes and screening activities targeting health staff and supportive staff.
- Awareness programmes targeting patients and visitors in hospital settings.

It is expected that at least one special programme along with several other activities are conducted at each institution level.

## **2. Cross programmatic activities:**

- 2.1. The public health programmes that handle or encounter the persons with high risk for TB should pay special attention in conducting the programmes. Maternal and Child Health Programme, School Health Programme, Urban and Estate Health Unit, National STD & AIDS Control Programme, Non-Communicable Disease Unit and Chronic Kidney Disease Unit shall give their support at central and district level to improve awareness and increase case finding among the respective high risk groups.



2.2. Consultant Respiratory Physicians (CRPs), Consultant Community Physicians (CCPs), Consultant Microbiologists, District Tuberculosis Control Officers (DTCOs), Regional Epidemiologists (REs), Medical Officers- Planning (MO-Planning) and Health Education Officers (HEO) in each district are expected to extend their fullest cooperation to Heads of Institutions, Medical Officers of Health and other parties in planning and execution of World TB Day related activities.

2.3. To strengthen the health education activities related to World TB Day, mobile health education units at district level should be utilized through Health Education Officers.


2.4. Participation of Indigenous Medical Institutes, Community Based Organizations and Non Governmental Organizations, other government institutions (District Secretariats, Divisional Secretariats, Social Service Officers and Grama Niladharies etc.) should be ensured.

### 3. COVID -19 Guidelines:

Adherence to COVID 19 guidelines should be ensured at all levels by the Heads of the Institutions.

For more information on TB, contact DTCO of the respective district or visit the official website of NPTCCD.

Ministry of Health expects active contribution of all relevant parties to achieve End TB targets in the near future.

  
Dr. Asela Gunawardena  
Director General of Health Services

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Copies:

1. Secretary - Ministry of Health
2. Additional Secretary - Public Health Services / Medical Services
3. All Provincial Health Secretaries
4. DDG Public Health Services 1/11
5. DDG Medical Services 1/11
6. All Consultants Respiratory Physicians
7. All Provincial and District Consultant Community Physicians

Note: Report on proposed activity plan and activities conducted in respective provinces/districts/institutions should be submitted to the Director – NPTCCD on or before 30.04.2022.

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San Francisco, California  
January 11, 1962