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சுவசிரிபாய
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My No.) FHB/CMM/Covid19/2021

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Your No. :)

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திகதி) 25/08/2021
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சுகாதார அமைச்சு
Ministry of Health

Provincial Directors of Health Services
Regional Directors of Health Services
All Heads of Institutions (Government & Private Sector)

Surveillance of Covid-19-related Child Deaths (below the age of 18 years)

Children also constitute a sizable proportion of the Covid-19 cases in the country. A large number of children have contracted the disease and several child deaths have also been reported due to Covid-19.

Surveillance of child deaths due to Covid-19 plays a crucial role in preventing such deaths and improving health service delivery for children infected with Covid-19. It also contributes to the availability of comprehensive & quality mortality data for action.

As such, it is advised to adhere to following guidance in a situation of a child death (below the age of 18 years) who was;

- SARS CoV-2 PCR test, Rapid Antigen Test OR Antibody test positive at the time of death
OR
- had a history of Covid-19 disease during the past six (06) weeks;

1. Head of the hospital and area Medical Officer of Health (MOH) should notify the index child death within 24 hours to Director / FHB using the Covid-19 Child Death Notification Format (*Attached*).
2. Head of the hospital (Area MOH in case of a home death) should proceed for a full autopsy examination after discussing with the relevant Consultant JMO (*You may communicate with D/FHB for specific arrangements if necessary. Phone: 0112692745 / 0112696508*).
3. Head of the hospital should keep all the clinical records (Bed Head Ticket / Investigation reports / Post-mortem Reports etc) under his/her custody.
4. Area MOH should conduct a field death investigation with the participation of Public Health Nursing Sister, Public Health Inspector and area PHM within 7 days of the death. Prepare a Field Covid-19 Child Death Investigation Report (*Attached*) with a brief field case scenario, issues identified and recommendations and send it with copies of all the available documents / clinical records to Director / FHB within 14 days of the death.

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5. Head of the hospital should conduct a hospital child death review in the form of a clinical audit with the participation of relevant clinical teams and area MOH within 10 days of the death. Prepare a Hospital Covid-19 Child Death Investigation Report (*Attached*) with a brief case scenario, issues identified and recommendations and send it with the copies of clinical records (Bed Head Ticket / Investigation reports / Post-mortem Reports etc) to Director / FHB within 14 days of the death.

You are instructed to bring the contents of this letter to the notice of all relevant specialists (Paediatricians / Neonatologists / Intensivists / Forensic Pathologists / Pathologists / Community Physicians etc), Regional Epidemiologists, Medical Officers of Maternal & Child Health (MOMCH), area MOHs and all officers concerned attached to institutions, units or areas under your purview.


Dr. Asela Gunawardena
Director General of Health Services

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Copy: Secretary Health
Additional Secretary Health (MS / PHS)
Deputy Director General of Health Services (PHS I / PHS II / MS I / MS II)
Director – FHB / Epid Unit / MS / TCS / HPB
Presidents – SLCP / CCP / SLCIM / CFPSL / CCPSL / SLMA