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சுவசிரிபாய

SUWASIRIPAYA

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சுகாதார அமைச்சு

Ministry of Health

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எனது இல  
My No. } NCD / Inj / 09 / 2021

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உமது இல  
Your No. : }

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திகதி  
Date } 07.06.2021

General Circular No: 01 -15 /2021

Provincial Health Secretaries,

Provincial / Regional Directors of Health Services,

Directors of Teaching Hospitals/ Provincial General Hospitals/ District General Hospitals

Medical Superintendents of Base Hospitals and

Heads of Institutions.

**NATIONAL POISON PREVENTION WEEK – 13<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> OF SEPTEMBER 2021**

**“Childhood Poisoning in Sri Lanka”**

National Poisons Centre has been annually conducting the poison prevention week over the past few years in collaboration with the Ministry of Health. This program creates awareness regarding prevention and management of poisoning in the general public and the health staff. This initiative is following a decision taken in 2007 by National Committee for Prevention of Injury.

According to the National Health Statistics in 2018 the poisoning due to pharmaceuticals, house-hold products and the pesticides show considerable high percentage frequencies under childhood poisoning. The total number of poisoning under the age group less than sixteen years were 18302 (22.75%). According to the statistics of the National Poisons Information Centre in 2019, out of total poison exposure cases the reported childhood poisoning among children less than 19 years were 608(42.2%).

Considering this the National Poisons Information Center has decided to conduct the national poison prevention week 2021 to improve the awareness in the public through the health institutions in order to minimize hospital admissions and deaths due to childhood poisoning.

In year 2021, the poison prevention week will be conducted under following,

**Theme** : ***“ Childhood Poisoning in Sri Lanka”***

**Scheduled dates:** ***13<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> September 2021***

**Objectives:**

1. Minimize hospitalizations and deaths due to childhood poisoning.
2. Educate the general public and methods of minimizing childhood poisoning.

**The Proposed Activities:**

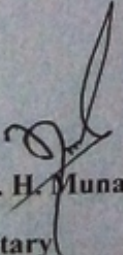
Preparing active programs to educate the staff and general public at institutional level.

01. Conducting lectures and exhibitions
02. Distribution of handouts and posters

You may seek further information and technical support from the National Poisons Information Centre located at the National Hospital of Sri Lanka/Colombo (Tel: 011-2686143/011-2691111 ext. 2430) who will be coordinating this activity.

Please bring this circular to the notice of all members of the staff and ensure that the above measures are implemented. At least one relevant program is expected to be carried out by each health institution.

A report of activities conducted in your respective institution should be forwarded to the Director/ Non-Communicable Disease, Ministry of Health, before 30<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

  
**Dr. S. H. Munasinghe**  
**Secretary**  
**Ministry of Health**

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