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சுவசிரிபாய  
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சுகாதாரம் மற்றும் சுதேசவையத்திய அமைச்சு  
Ministry of Health & Indigenous Medicine

Provincial/Regional Directors of Health Services,  
Heads/ Directors of Institutions,  
Director/NIHS  
All Provincial CCPs  
Directors of National Hospital/Teaching Hospitals/Provincial & District General Hospitals, Base  
Hospitals,  
All Medical Superintendents of other Hospitals,  
All Regional Epidemiologists/ Medical Officers (Maternal and Child Health),  
All Medical Officers of Health,

**Change of the National Immunization schedule: MMR, LJE vaccination**

The country is experiencing a measles outbreak situation since 2013 and still continuing with decreasing intensity. Epidemiological investigations have revealed that majority affected were between 9-12 months of age infants, before the 1<sup>st</sup> dose of MMR vaccination and measles seroprevalence data showed that they do not have maternal antibodies.

This was discussed in detail during the National Immunization Summit 2015 and recommendations were considered by the National Advisory Committee on Communicable Diseases (ACCD) meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2015. The requirement of immediate change of the MMR vaccination has been identified and decided to bring down the age at vaccination for the 1<sup>st</sup> dose of MMR to 9 months of age from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015. This decision has taken after careful review of safety and efficacy profiles of the vaccine and the practical use of MMR in other countries below the age of 1 year.

Please note that the Live Japanese Encephalitis Vaccine (LJEV) scheduled to be given at the age of 9 months will be given at the age of 1 year, as recommendations given below.

