CAISA
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General Circular Letter No: 2-18/2003 (1)

Office of the Director General of Health Services,
Ministry of Health, Nutrition & Welfare,
"Suwasiripaya",
385, Baddegama Wimalawansa Himi Mawatha,
Colombo 10.

19.05.2003.

All Provincial Directors of Health Services,
Deputy Provincial Directors of Health Services,
Heads of the Institutions,
Regional Epidemiologists,

GUIDELINES FOR NATIONAL SEVERE ACUTE RESPIRATORY SYNDROME (SARS) PREPAREDNESS

Further to my General Circular Letter No. 02-18/2003 dated 17th April 2003 on the above subject, herewith I am sending additional instructions regarding SARS preparedness.

I have noticed that some hospital doctors have misdiagnosed pneumonia cases as SARS cases without following the instructions given by the Ministry of Health based on WHO Case Definition for SARS. Unfortunately, some of these cases, thereby have been mismanaged.

To avoid the such incidents, we have established an expert committee on SARS to review all suspected SARS cases at the Ministry of Health, Nutrition and Welfare.

Hereafter, when suspected SARS patients are admitted to institutions in your province/division, the head of the institution should inform the DGHS and send the information of the suspected SARS case in the annexed format immediately to the D.G.H.S. The expert committee will decide whether it is a suspected / probable case or not & recommend further management. The D.G.H.S. will give you the necessary instructions accordingly. Please note that cases should be transferred to IDH only on instructions of the DGHS.

Please send the information to the D.G.H.S. by [telephone (01-698543, Mobile: 0777-750105), fax (01-693869) or e-mail (hatulak@sltnet.lk)].

Please bring the contents of this circular to the notice of all officers concerned in your province/region/institution.

Dr Dula de Silva
Deputy Director General (PHS) I

Sigd.Dr Athula Kahandaliyanage
Director General of Health Services

c.c.- 1. Secretary/Health, Nutrition & Welfare
2. DDG (MS)
3. DDG (LS)
4. DDG (PHS) II
5. Epidemiologist
6. D/MRI
7. D/MSD
8. D/HE&P