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SUWASIRIPAYA

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சுகாதார அமைச்சு
Ministry of Health

මගේ අංකය) EPID/400/COVID-19/VOL 5
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திகதி) 09.09.2022
Date)

Provincial Directors of Health Services
Regional Directors of Health Services

Strengthening the COVID 19 vaccination program (COMIRNATY – COVID 19 mRNA vaccine, Nucleoside modified – Pfizer BNT) for eligible school children

It has been brought to my notice that the coverage of COVID-19 vaccination among eligible school children is considerably low given the total target population. Among children aged 12-15 years only around 0.8 million out of a total of 1.4 million have been vaccinated with a single dose. In the age group 16-19 years, only around 0.38 million have received a second dose out of 1.17 million who had received the first dose. Though school closures resulting from disruptions due to the pandemic and the fuel shortage in the country would have contributed to this low vaccination coverage. Given that schools have reopened, additional measures must now be taken to increase the vaccination among school children.

You are hereby instructed to take necessary measures in your province/district to organize **accelerated school-based vaccination programs** to complete the vaccination of eligible school children within the month of September 2022. All aged 12-19 years should be offered two doses of the COMIRNATY – COVID-19 mRNA vaccine (Nucleoside modified – Pfizer BNT).

The vaccine should be offered at Medical Officer of Health clinics for those who are not able to obtain the vaccine from the school. Please bring the contents of this letter to the attention of relevant officers in your province/ district.

Dr. Asela Gunawardena
Director General of Health Services

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Cc: Hon. Minister of Health
Secretary, Ministry of Health
Additional Secretary/ Public Health Services
Deputy Director General – PHS I
Chief Epidemiologist
Provincial/District Consultant Community Physicians
Regional Epidemiologists
School Medical Unit – Colombo, Kandy