



**Epidemiology Unit
Ministry of Health**

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OPV immunization of returnees from India

Immunization of High Risk Groups

Since our country remains Polio free since 1993, and neighbouring countries have reported cases of poliomyelitis, Sri Lanka has maintained with uniform high OPV immunization coverage and also strengthened AFP surveillance activities. In 2004, in preventing the Poliomyelitis importation from the closest endemic country of India to possible districts where they would return and settle are monitored. All returnees registered at Divisional Secretariat office of the relevant areas are expected to be registered by the Public Health Inspector (PHI), and all immigrants and new families to the area are identified through the Public Health Midwife (PHM)/Volunteers of the respective areas in districts of Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Mullaitivu, Vavuniya, Mannar, Batticaloa, Ampara, and Trincomalee. All children who are under 15 years, are advised to be vaccinated with 2 doses of OPV, 1st dose as early as possible and the 2nd dose 4 weeks later, irrespective of their previous immunization status. Medical Officers of Health (MOH) are supposed to send the information to the Regional Epidemiologist monthly through the form of "Monthly return of OPV immunization of returnees from South-India" before the 5th of the following month.

The Regional Epidemiologist is requested to compile all information received from MOOH and send to the Epidemiology Unit before 10th of the following month from these identified districts through the same form.

(A circular letter was sent in this regard in 2004 ; [EPID/37/XII/2003- dated 16th January 2004])