

General Circular: 01-15/2009

MyNo.NCD/01/2007
Director General of Health Services
Colombo 10.

To All Provincial Health Secretaries,
Provincial Directors of Health Services,
Deputy Provincial Directors of Health Services,
Directors of Teaching Hospitals,
Medical Superintendent of Provincial Hospitals and
Heads of Institutions.

World No Tobacco Day-2009 Tobacco Health Warnings

The theme of this year's World No Tobacco Day (WNTD) which falls on the 31st of May is "Tobacco Health warnings". These warnings are to appear on packs of tobacco products. The responsibility for the creation of a favorable environment for the promotion of health of our children is a prime responsibility of the Ministry of Healthcare and Nutrition. WNTD provides a good opportunity for carrying out this duty. As the Director General of the World Health Organization (WHO) Dr. Margaret Chan has emphasized tobacco use is a risk factor for six of the eight leading causes of death in the world. This is true for the people of Sri Lanka as well. Therefore on WNTD, it is our special duty to make our people aware of the grave health hazards of tobacco use. Already steps have been taken in that direction. One important step has been the National Authority on Tobacco and Alcohol (NATA) Act No.27 of 2006. There are provisions in this Act which prohibit;


1. Sale of tobacco products to those under 21 years of age.
2. Smoking in enclosed public places
3. Promotion of tobacco products
4. Sponsorship of public events by the tobacco industry

The NATA Act became effective from 1st December 2006. Thereafter there has been a significant reduction in tobacco use in the country.

In order to consolidate this achievement further you are earnestly requested to make arrangements to launch a series of programmes which could be implemented throughout the year with the assistance and active participation of relevant partners with special emphasis on the following.

1. Promote awareness of the health staff on the theme of the World Anti Tobacco Day, its importance and the activities to be performed.
2. Supply of necessary materials.
(E.g.-Hand bills/Banners, Health messages etc.)

3. Implementation of programmes targeting risk groups/institutions. (Actions should be taken to implement at least one programme at MOH level.)
4. Take action to see whether legal action is properly implemented under Act No.27 of 2006
5. Further you are kindly requested to submit a report to the Director of Non-Communicable Diseases Unit of the Ministry on the programmes implemented by your institution for the commemoration of World No Tobacco Day of the current year, before 30th June 2009, so as to enable to prepare and submit a combined report.


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Dr.A.A.P.Kahandaliyanage
Secretary of Health.

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