

2nd phase of Pulse Polio campaign on 10-2-2008

The Second Phase of Pulse Polio campaign (PPI) will be held on 10-2-2008 (Sunday). In the first round campaign conducted on 6-1-2008, around 72 lakh children below the age of 5 years were benefited. Special efforts were taken to cover the children of migrant workers settled at construction sites and other places. About 30000 migrant children were given polio drops during the 1st phase campaign.

The Public Health Department under Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of Tamil Nadu has made elaborate arrangements in co-ordination with other departments to administer second dose of Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV) on 10-2-2008 to all those children who have received first dose and also those children missed during the first round campaign. Newborn children will also be given polio drops during this campaign.

Experience during the first phase of Pulse Polio Campaign

Due to the good support rendered through media, Public have participated in a big way and made the campaign, a successful one. Besides Government Departments, various voluntary organizations have also supported the campaign.

However it was found that some parents are still reluctant to bring their children for OPV administration during the campaign, stating that their children had already received more number of OPV doses. Though adequate publicity was given, there are some doubts in the minds of the community. Hence the following scientific information must reach the public.

Why additional OPV doses during PPI days

Tamil Nadu is "polio free". for the past 4 years. However northern states like Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and neighboring Karnataka and Andhra States are reporting polio cases and there may be possibility of transmission of polio virus to Tamil Nadu State. Hence it becomes essential to immunize all under 5 years children with additional OPV doses on 10-2-2008 to sustain the polio free status.

Points to ponder

1. Polio Vaccine is safe and effective and it can be given any number of times; there is no side effects.
2. Even if a child is immunised recently under Routine Immunisation Schedule, the child should be given Polio drops on the campaign days also.
3. Polio drops given on Pulse Polio campaign days are not alternative to the routine Immunisation. They are only supplementary doses to all children under the age of 5 years
4. Newborns also to be given Polio drops on campaign days

PPI Arrangements

As in the past , the State is establishing around 40,400 Immunisation booths located in Govt. Hospitals, Primary Health Centres, Health Sub centres , Noon Meal centres, Schools and in other important places. Transit booths have also been set up at Railway Stations, Bus Stand and tourist spots to cover moving population. Mobile teams have been planned to cover the population in remote and inaccessible areas.

Around 72 lakhs children are expected to be benefited. About 2 lakhs personnel including volunteers from NGOs like Rotary are involved in this mega campaign. Private doctors have also been requested to open their clinics on PPI days and invite their clients to give Polio drops to the children of under 5 years irrespective of the previous immunisation status.

Gentian violet solution will be applied on the nailbed of the left little finger of each child after vaccination. The marking of children helps to identify the unimmunised children.

Each House will be visited on 2nd and 3rd days of PPI campaign and marked with "P" to ensure that all children in that area are immunised.

The campaigns so far conducted in the State have yielded very good results. All efforts have been taken to cover all children under the age of 5 year without omission of a single child.

The Public must utilise this opportunity and bring their children to the Immunisation booths to receive polio drops.

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