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Date: 23 October, 2013

CIRCULAR

To: All Doctors, Nurses and Health Care Workers in Health Centers, Hospitals and Private Clinics

Subject: Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP) and other Vaccine Preventable Diseases Alert

Syria is considered at high-risk for polio and other vaccine-preventable diseases due to the current situation. Recently a cluster of Acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) cases were reported to World Health Organization from the Syrian Arab Republic with initial results indicating that it could be positive for polio. WHO's International Travel and Health recommends that all travelers to and from polio-infected areas be fully vaccinated against polio.

Accordingly, all healthcare providers are requested to be on the alert for cases of acute flaccid paralysis and other vaccine preventable diseases in the coming period and **strengthen vigilance** especially among those arriving from Syria including returned traveler or contacts of returned traveler. Moreover, **polio vaccine is offered to those planning to travel or arriving from Syria without a documented evidence of complete polio vaccination series** Also ensure completion of other vaccination. (AFP guidelines attached)

Furthermore, **immediate notification within 24 hours** of suspected AFP cases and timely notification of any fever and rash (suspected measles cases) to be reported to the following address: Diseases Control Section - Communicable Disease Group, Hot line No.66399868, Fax No. 17279268..

Thank you for your cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Mariam Al Jalahma
Assistant undersecretary for
Primary Care and Public Health