

Republic of Lebanon
Ministry of Public Health
The Director General

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Circular no. 38

On committing to free vaccinations at all health centers and dispensaries

Based on the received complaints regarding collecting fees in return of the children's immunization at health centers and dispensaries;

And given the current situation of overpopulation that Lebanon is witnessing and the potential spread of epidemics and contagious diseases it may cause;

And based on the main tasks assigned to nurses according to the Nursing Law;

All health centers and dispensaries are asked to do the following:

First: Not to reject any child's vaccination due to any reason especially **financial reasons**.

Second: Investigate about unvaccinated children or displaced children who live within the scope of work of the health center/dispensary, and give these children the necessary vaccinations according to the National Vaccination Calendar provided that **measles and polio vaccines** must be given first, and later on complete the mentioned calendar according to the child's age.

Third: Not to use any excuse for depriving the child from a vaccine like those relating to the presence of a physician in time of vaccinations, **a certified nurse is qualified to give a vaccine**.

Fourth: Full commitment to **free** vaccinations, otherwise it may lead to the termination of the primary health care contract with the health center, and to the withdrawal of the license from the dispensary. The responsibility lies on the district physician and his team to monitor the work of health centers and dispensaries within the district's scope of work.

Fifth: Place this circular on the announcement's board at the health center/dispensary so that all visitors shall be informed.

Sixth: Inform all visitors that vaccines are free of charge by placing a very clear phrase (**The vaccine is free of charge**) on the announcement's board and entrances of the health center/dispensary for reference.

Director General of the Ministry of Public Health
Dr. Walid Ammar
(Stamp & Signature)

To be informed:

- The Minister
- Health centers
- Dispensaries/District medical services
- Representative of the civil health sector
- World Health Organization
- UNICEF
- UNHCR
- Archives