The Ministry of Health and Wellness has put in place a series of health intervention programmes against diseases and their causative factors. Intervention programmes focusing on primary prevention of diseases and their risk factors in the community and at worksites have been reengineered while existing programmes, which are comprehensive and multi-sectoral, are being sustained to favour an enabling environment for the adoption of a healthy lifestyle. The NCD, Health Promotion and Research Unit (NCDHPRU) of this Ministry is responsible to coordinate and implement activities in relation to screening, prevention and care of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) as well as health promotion and awareness raising activities. This Unit is also responsible for the prevention and management of Emerging Infectious Diseases and is actively leading the vaccination campaign against COVID-19. Most of the National and International Health events are organized by the NCDHPR Unit. Capacity building /Training and organization of workshop also form an integral part of the NCDHPR Unit.

**Key Staff**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Designation</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Fax</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr B. Ori</td>
<td>Director General Health Services</td>
<td>201 2692</td>
<td>201 1039</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bori@govmu.org">bori@govmu.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. z. B. Lallmahomed</td>
<td>Permanent Secretary</td>
<td>2011921 / 2013719</td>
<td>208 1147</td>
<td><a href="mailto:zlallmahomed@govmu.org">zlallmahomed@govmu.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr D. Conhye</td>
<td>Permanent Secretary</td>
<td>2011902</td>
<td>20136 59</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dconhye@govmu.org">dconhye@govmu.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. s. Kalasoptan-Chellen</td>
<td>Permanent Secretary</td>
<td>201 3488</td>
<td>208 1140</td>
<td><a href="mailto:desjaysl994@gmail.com">desjaysl994@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. s. Kowlessur</td>
<td>Director Health Promotion and Research</td>
<td>201 1929</td>
<td>212 3770</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sukowlessur@govmu.org">sukowlessur@govmu.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr J. L.D Bhujoharry</td>
<td>Assistant Permanent Secretary</td>
<td>201 1514</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:jbhujoharry@govmu.org">jbhujoharry@govmu.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The main activities falling under the purview of the NCD, Health Promotion and Research Unit are as follows:

**Prevention Nationale pour Maladies Non - Transmissibles**

The Mobile Clinic Service, also known as the *Caravane de Sante*, has been deployed to enhance the health conditions of the population through a wider range of health intervention activities made available to the community at their doorsteps, at schools and at workplaces. There is a Mobile Clinic Service in each of the five health region. The main activities carried out by the Mobile Clinic Service are as follows:

- Dispensing Health Education
- Enhancing Health Promotion through Health Intervention Programmes/Activities
- Screening for diabetes, obesity, high blood pressure, vision defect and breast and cervical cancer.

**NCD Screening Programme**

NCD Screening Programme is being carried out among persons aged 18 years and above at worksites and localities throughout the island on a regular basis for the early detection, prevention and treatment of NCDs. Around 10,000 persons are targeted each year.

**Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Programme**

To enable early detection and treatment of breast and cervical cancer, Breast and Cervical Screening Programme is being carried out for married or sexually active women aged 25 to 60 years according to guidelines laid by experts. For Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening, around 7000 women are targeted each year.

**School Health Programme for Secondary Schools**

Screening Programme for students of secondary schools is being carried out at public and private secondary schools for students of Grade 7, 9 and 12. The objectives of the Screening Programme are as follows:

- Early detection of NCDs and their risk factors
- Promotion of good health practices among students through education on nutrition, healthy lifestyle, personal hygiene and communicable diseases.

**Around 182 secondary schools are visited yearly to screen approximately 35,000 students.**
Physical Activity Programme

To create better awareness in the population at the national level regarding the need and importance for undertaking physical activity, a National Action Plan on Physical Activity is being implemented. With the view to make Mauritius a physically active and healthy nation, aggressive campaign for the practice of physical activity is continuously being emphasized.

To strengthen the physical activity programme, 22 Health Clubs, equipped with physical fitness equipment, have been set up. Besides the existing health clubs, the physical activity programme has been extended to 76 additional centres throughout the island wherein Yoga, Tai Chi, Aerobics, Bollywood Aerobics, Zumba, Physical Exercise, and Karate sessions are held on a regular basis. To re-invigorate physical activity in the community, 6 Health Tracks and 5 Outdoor Gyms have been set up to encourage the community to undertake physical activity.

Sensitization/Awareness Campaign

Talks / Sensitisation campaigns are organized regularly at Social Welfare Centres, Community Centres, Village Halls, Social Centres and Municipal Halls for the Community at large on the prevention of NCDs, healthy eating habits, physical activity, cigarette smoking, and alcohol consumption among others. These are also supported by social mobilization and community participation. Regular TV and Radio programme are organized.

Observation/Celebration of National and International Events

The NCDHPRU organizes functions to mark World Health Events like:

- World Cancer Day
- World Health Day
- World No Tobacco Day
- International Day of Yoga
- International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking
- World Heart Day
- World Diabetes Day
Research Activities

**Development and Evaluation of a Technology-Assisted Diabetes Prevention Programme in Mauritius (SMS survey)**

This Ministry in collaboration with Diabetes Research Foundation, Chennai and Mauritius Telecom is conducting a study on ‘Development and Evaluation of a Technology-Assisted Diabetes Prevention Programme in Mauritius’ – (SMS Study) to evaluate the impact of text messaging (SMS messages) for the prevention of diabetes in the Mauritian population who are at high risk of developing diabetes.

The main objective of the survey is to design and pilot a diabetes prevention programme for people with pre-diabetes which is based on lifestyle modification and specific to the needs of Mauritius.

**Mauritius Intensive Diabetes Action Study (MIDAS)**

This Ministry in collaboration with the Monash University, Australia; University of Helsinki, Finland and Department of Cardiology and Endocrinology, Denmark is conducting the Mauritius Intensive Diabetes Action Study (MIDAS).

The main aim of the study is to reduce the risk for major cardiovascular diseases (CVD) events over a two-year period with mortality, microvascular complications and hospitalisation for heart failure as secondary endpoints.

**Patients’ and families’ retrospective, subjective evaluation of patients with neurological disability’s deterioration during lockdown in Mauritius**

The Ministry of Health and Wellness in collaboration with the NEURAM Foundation has carried out a survey entitled “Investigating the impact of confinement due to the COVID-19 pandemic on Mauritius with Acquired Brain Injuries (ABI) and Spinal Cord Injuries (SCI). This Survey is an extension of the World Federation for Neuro Rehabilitation’s Survey. The main objective of this survey is to impart about the experience of neurological rehabilitation professionals who provide neurological rehabilitation to victims of COVID-19 with neurological complications.
The Mauritius NCD Survey 2020/2021 is the 7th NCD Survey. This NCD survey aims:

- To document the current prevalence of NCDs
- To enable the Ministry to define appropriate intervention strategies which will help reduce disease and risk factor prevalence and improve disease control.

The main objective of the survey is to determine the prevalence and study the trends in the prevalence of Type 2 diabetes, Hypertension, Cardiovascular diseases and their associated risk factors in the Mauritian population.

The field activity of the survey has been completed. Data cleaning and analysis is in progress.
Infectious Disease Outbreak/Emergencies

To contribute to the prevention and management of the COVID-19 in Mauritius, several responsibilities have been entrusted to the NCD, Health Promotion and Research Unit namely:

I. Hotline Service
To provide appropriate assistance to the queries of the population in regard to COVID-19 Vaccination Programme and other related activities through the hotline service (141).

II. Training for Trainers
Training on the management, deployment and administration of vaccine against COVID-19
Training for trainers on sensitization campaign on corona virus for the population.

III. Data Entry COVAC System
COVAC System is being monitored by the NCDHPR Unit, where data entry is being carried out through this system for the questionnaires filled upon vaccination against COVID-19. The aim of using the COVAC System is to digitalise the vaccination data and for issue of digital ‘PassVaccinal’ upon being vaccinated.

IV. Rapid Antigen Test for Detection of COVID-19
Rapid Antigen test is being carried out for all the Ministers before cabinet meeting. The test is also carried out by the NCDHPRU as and when required is made by the Ministry.

V. Air travel and COVID-19 Prevention Programme at the SSR International Airport
PCR Tests are being carried out at the Airport for incoming passengers on a 24/7 basis to reduce the risk of COVID-19 contamination.

VI. Vaccination Campaign against COVID-19
The National COVID-19 Vaccination Campaign was launched on the 26th January 2021 in Mauritius. COVID-19 vaccination campaign has been planned and implemented, taking Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 3 and 10 into consideration. The vaccines used so far in the vaccination campaign are: Covishield/Astrazeneca, Covaxin, Sinopharm, Sinopharm Hayat-Vax, Sputnik V, Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) and Pfizer-BioNtech.

Under the Vaccination Programme as from 26\textsuperscript{th} January 2021 till 31\textsuperscript{st} January 2022:

Adult
- Administration of 1\textsuperscript{st} Dose: 913,143 people have been vaccinated
- Fully vaccinated: 887,116 people have been vaccinated
- Booster dose: 369,460 people have been vaccinated

Adolescent
- **Age: 15, 16 and 17 years**
  - First dose: 40,765 students have been vaccinated.
  - Second dose: 34,587 students have been vaccinated
- **Age: 12, 13 and 14 years**
  - First dose: 29,734 students have been vaccinated.
  - Second dose: 11,456 students have been vaccinated