



**TO: DDG: Chief of Operations**  
**Chief Directors: MHS, RHS, Strategy**  
**Directors: EMS, FPS, SPC, HIA, Clinical Service Improvement, Medicine Management, Substructures, Districts**  
**Head of Institutions**  
**Director: City Health**  
**Executive Directors: Department of Education, Local Authorities, Municipalities, South African Military Health Services.**  
**Managers: General Practitioners, Pharmacies, Private Hospitals and Private Clinics**

Circular H ...../2023 **65**

## **EXTENSION OF THE NATIONAL MEASLES VACCINATION CAMPAIGN 2023**

This circular must be read in conjunction with the following circulars:

- Circular H13/2023; THE NATIONAL MEASLES VACCINATION CAMPAIGN 6 FEBRUARY – 31 MARCH 2023
- Circular H19/2023; DECLARATION OF MEASLES OUTBREAK IN CAPE METRO DISTRICT

**The National Department of Health (NDoH) has recommended that the measles campaign be extended considering the ongoing cases and low vaccination coverage.**

### **Background**

The 2023 Measles Campaign was mandated in response to the measles outbreaks that started in Gauteng (May 2022) and Limpopo (October 2022).

- 6 February – 31 March 2023
- Age cohort 6 months to under-15 - years of age

The following information is based on the interim situation report of the measles campaign as of 18 May 2023 (Week 18-19).

Since epidemiological week 40 of 2022 (8 October 2022), 5,916 serum samples were tested for measles of which 1,004 (17%) were confirmed positive.

- During week 18 to 19, 7 laboratory-confirmed measles cases were reported, all of which were from Limpopo.
- The age group affected most is the 5–9-year-olds (43%), followed by the 1–4-year-olds (23%) and 10–14-year-olds (20%).
- The number of lab-confirmed cases for the Western Cape province since the start of the national outbreak in week 40 of 2022 is 14, of which 8 cases were detected since the outbreak was declared on 20 February 2023.
- Since the last 2 cases reported in the Western Cape during week 15 of April 2023, there has been 1 new lab-confirmed case on 23 May 2023.

### **1. Implementation Considerations**

- Measles vaccine boosters should continue to be provided in facilities (public and private) and where there is capacity, the service may be rendered as an outreach to schools and ECD centres.

- Integration of other key services such as growth monitoring, MUAC measurement, provision of vitamin A and deworming catch-up to all under-5-year-olds with the necessary consent should be considered during outreach.
- The measles vaccine may be provided with routine EPI to children over the 9-months of age.
- Going forward, to minimize the impact on the routine measles vaccination, children at 6 - and 12 months of age may receive their routine measles vaccine according to the schedule and booster doses may be administered subsequently: e.g., If a child presents at a facility for the 6 - or 12-month routine measles, the campaign dose booster may be provided after a 4-week interval.

## 2. Coverage

- Districts must aspire to reach at least 95% of measles coverage to obtain herd immunity.
- Targets for Vitamin A and Deworming are based on the number of children missing routine doses. All districts are to reach 80%.

### **Measles Vaccine Booster Doses Provided:**

Age Cohort	Population	Booster Vaccines Provided	% cover	Never Vaccinated Against Measles (As Reported)
6 - 11 months	111,853	35,561	32%	
12 - 59 months		234,683		1,917
Total 0-4 years	559,467	270,244	48%	
5 - 14 years		522,154		598
Grand Total 0-14 years	1,727,392	792,398	46%	2,515

\*Sinjani data 18 May 2023

## 3. Vaccine Stock

- Measles vaccine stock for the 6 - 59 months cohort were funded from district/sub-structure budgets and consumables through the HPV budget.
- Additional measles vaccines for the 5 - <15-year cohort were donated by NDoH, and consumables are funded through district budgets.
- Two vaccines were procured by Biovac, namely the Measbio® vaccine and the Measles Vaccine Live attenuated SII/Cipla®. The Cipla vaccines were received as a donation from NDoH. The Western Cape has depleted the Measbio® vaccine stock. The donated (Cipla SII) stock will be used for the campaign and routine vaccinations.

## 4. Information Management

The data collection tools remain unchanged for the extended Measles Campaign. Campaign boosters should not be captured in the PHC Registers or RMR. The Sinjani data centre will remain open for data capturing and will then be exported to DHIS.

To decrease the pressure on services, daily capturing was changed to weekly capturing from April 2023.

Your cooperation is appreciated.



**JO Arendse**  
**Chief Director: Emergency & Clinical Services Support**

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