



Circular number: H.47. /2024

TO: Chief Directors

District Managers:

Directors:

Chief Executive Officers (CEOs):

Heads of Health / Executive Directors:

Managers:

Metro Health Services (MHS)

Rural Health Services (RHS)

Strategy

MHS Substructures

RHS Districts

Assurance

Facilities Management: Prov. Environmental Health

Communication

Central, Regional and District Hospitals

Department of Education

Local Authorities/Municipalities

South African Military Health Services

General Practitioners

Pharmacies

Private Hospitals and Private Clinics

Medicines, Lab and Blood Services Support

2023 MEASLES OUTBREAK RESPONSE VACCINATION CAMPAIGN TERMINATION

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

- Circular H13/2023; THE NATIONAL MEASLES VACCINATION CAMPAIGN
- Circular H19/2023; DECLARATION OF MEASLES OUTBREAK IN CAPE METRO DISTRICT
- Circular H65/2023; EXTENSION OF THE NATIONAL MEASLES VACCINATION CAMPAIGN

In response to a national measles outbreak, the 2023 Measles Campaign was mandated by the National Department of Health to stop the spread of measles.

Background

A measles outbreak started in Gauteng (May 2022) and Limpopo (October 2022), from where it spread to the rest of the country. The Western Cape declared an outbreak in February 2023, and ongoing sporadic cases are still being reported. A National Measles Campaign was scheduled to run from **6 February to 31 March 2023**, with focus on the age cohort **6-months to under-15-years**, however it was extended due to low cover (47%) and ongoing sporadic cases.

A 42-day-period (Two incubation periods) of no lab-confirmed measles cases in a specific province are required by the National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD) for an outbreak to be declared over.

The following information is based on the interim situation report of the measles campaign as of 28 June 2023 (Week 24).

Since epidemiological week 40 of 2022 (8 October 2022) up to week 47 of 2023 (end November 2023), the Western Cape had 48 lab-confirmed measles positive cases.

- The age-group affected most in the Western Cape is the under-5-year-olds.
- Sporadic cases of confirmed measles are ongoing in the province.
- During November 2023 the Western Cape had the highest number of measles positive case in South Africa (18).

1. Strategies for Consideration to disrupt the spread of measles.

- The Western Cape has remained at 47% cover since June 2023.
- Vigilance, surveillance, and reporting of suspected measles cases should continue.
- If there is an open, reconstituted vial available, booster doses may be provided in facilities (public and private) on requests to the public.
- Community Based Services (CBS) may assist in identifying children in need of vaccination and should refer appropriately.
- Referrals may be made to Local Authority-, Government clinics or Public-Private-Partners (PPP). In some circumstances the PPP may be more acceptable and accessible by some parents/carers (after hours appointments and minimal waiting times).
- When a child is brought for routine vaccination, the vaccinator may continue to offer booster measles vaccines to the siblings/children in the household who have not yet received a booster.
- The measles vaccine is packaged as a multidose vial that must be discarded 6 hours after reconstitution. Prior to discarding the vial, any children under the age of 15-years in the facility (patients or visitors) should be offered a measles booster, which will also minimize wastage.

2. Information Management

- Data collection for the Measles Campaign will be discontinued on 28 December 2023.
- Booster doses should not be captured in the PHC Registers or RMR.
- The Sinjani form will be locked for data capturing on 28th December 2023 at 12h00 and will no longer be exported to DHIS.

All the best in making this campaign a success.

Yours sincerely,


pp. *J.O. Arendse*

DR J.O. Arendse
Chief Director: Emergency & Clinical Services Support (ACTING)

Date 27/12/2023