



# health

Department:  
Health  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X828, PRETORIA, 0001, Dr AB Xuma Building, 1112 Voortrekker Rd, Pretoria Townlands 351-JR, Pretoria, 0187, Tel (012) 395 8380

## PROVINCIAL HEADS OF HEALTH

### CIRCULAR NO. 1 OF 2022: MEASLES OUTBREAK ALERT

This serves to inform you of the increasing number of positive measles cases in the country and to guide your province on the response to the imminent outbreak. Between January and October 2022, the country saw a significant increase of reported Confirmed Measles Cases (CMCs) as compared to the same reporting period in previous years.

South Africa is committed to measles elimination; thus, a single confirmed case is considered a potential outbreak. As of 16 November 2022, measles outbreaks have been declared in Limpopo with 54 laboratory CMCs since 8 October 2022 and in Mpumalanga with 3 CMCs since 14 November 2022. Four districts in Limpopo (Capricorn, Mopani, Sekhukhune and Waterberg) and one district in Mpumalanga (Ehlanzeni) are currently experiencing outbreaks.

Reflecting on the experience of the 2009/10 Measles Outbreak, during which over 18,000 of measles cases were confirmed; this situation puts the whole country on the verge of a measles outbreak. A suspected measles case is a “person of any age who presents with fever of 38°C with a generalised rash and any one of the following: cough, conjunctivitis or coryza (runny nose).” Such a person should be reported immediately to the Local Authority and/or District Health Office, and a blood specimen should be taken and sent to the National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD) with a case investigation form in order to test for measles antibodies (IgM).