2 VACCINE-PREVENTABLE DISEASES

a Measles update 2017

As of 15 June 2017, 83 measles cases have been detected in South Africa from January to 15 June 2017, as shown in Figure 2. Measles cases for the year by province are as follows: Gauteng (n=42, outbreak ongoing), Western Cape (n=29, outbreak contained), Eastern Cape (n=2), KwaZulu-Natal (n=1), Limpopo (n=3), Mpumalanga (n=1), North West (n=5). To date, cases predominate in the 0-5 year age group (19 cases) followed by the 15-19 year age group (16 cases) and the 35-39 year age group (10 cases).

During May and June, 15 laboratory-confirmed cases and 65 probable cases have been identified in the West Rand District of Gauteng Province. A local vaccination campaign targeting all ages has been initiated in the community.

A national measles vaccination campaign is ongoing in all provinces of South Africa, targeting children under 5 years of age. Certain districts where older children developed measles (City of Johannesburg and Cape Winelands) vaccinated children under 15 years of age.

Private and public sector clinicians are reminded that all suspected measles cases (fever, rash with one of the three Cs—cough, coryza or conjunctivitis) require a serum sample for laboratory confirmation. The NICD will perform measles IgM testing free of charge in persons meeting the case definition. The case investigation form (available at www.nicd.ac.za under "Diseases A-Z) should be completed and submitted along with a tube of serum (yellow-topped tube) to the Centre for Vaccines and Immunology, NICD 011-386-6387.

Source: Centre for Vaccines and Immunology, NICD-NHLS; Division of Public Health Surveillance and Response, NICD-NHLS; Western Cape Department of Health; Gauteng Department of Health; melindas@nicd.ac.za

Figure 2. Laboratory-confirmed measles cases in South Africa, 1 January to 15 June 2017