

2 VACCINE-PREVENTABLE DISEASES

a Measles in Gauteng and Western Cape provinces: an update

As of 23 May 2017, 60 measles cases have been detected in total for South Africa (Figure 1) since 1 January 2017, as follows: Eastern Cape Province 1 case, Limpopo Province 1 case, Mpumalanga 1 case, North West Province 4 cases. There have been 24 measles cases in Gauteng Province since 1 January 2017 (Figure 1). The Gauteng cases follow an outbreak in Western Cape Province early this year, when 29 cases were identified. This outbreak was contained through excellent work done by the provincial authorities, including contact tracing and vaccination, and a localised immediate vaccination campaign in the affected community, followed by a provincial vaccination campaign.

A mass measles vaccination campaign targeting children from 6 months to 5 years of age, and in City of Johannesburg, children from 6 months to under 15 years of age, is underway in Gauteng Province in response to the measles outbreak that began in late February 2017. The campaign began on 2 May 2017 in Gauteng Province, with a delayed start (15 May) in the City of Johannesburg. The campaign will continue in Gauteng until the end of June. All other South African provinces, including the Western Cape, will commence with a measles

vaccination campaign in June, targeting children from 6 months to 5 years of age. The provincial and national vaccination campaigns include both public and private sectors. Private schools, crèches and nursery schools will be visited by provincial health departments. Private vaccinators are encouraged to access free measles vaccine offered by the Department of Health.

All children, even those who are fully up to date with their vaccination schedule, should receive an additional campaign dose. A full course of measles vaccine is 95% effective, but there may be up to 5 children of every hundred who are not protected. A mass campaign is intended to boost the immunity of those 5%, in addition to reaching those who are unvaccinated. Information for private vaccinators is available from www.nicd.ac.za, together with frequently asked questions about the measles campaigns.

Source: Centre for Vaccines and Immunology, NICD-NHLS; melindas@nicd.ac.za

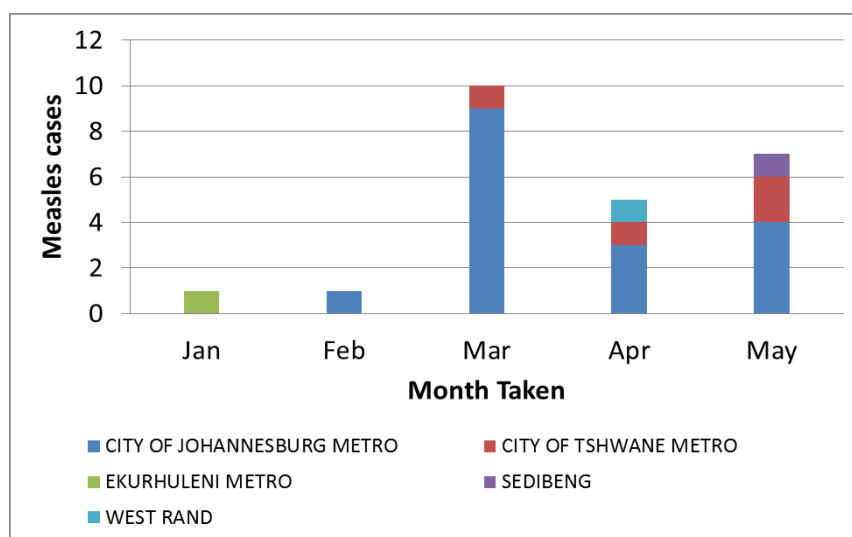


Figure 1. District distribution of laboratory-confirmed measles cases in Gauteng Province, 1 January – 23 May 2017 (n=24).