

Tick bite fever due to *R. conorii* has the potential to cause severe systemic disease that may mimic severe bacterial sepsis or CCHF, especially following delayed presentation. Complications include encephalitis, confusion, or coma, pneumonia, pulmonary embolism following deep vein thrombosis, bleeding, gangrene, hepatorenal failure, myocarditis and death.

Source: The clinicians, Livingston Hospital; Centre for Emerging Zoonosis and Parasitic Disease (CEZPD), NICD-NHLS. (Janusz@nicd.ac.za)

2 VACCINE-PREVENTABLE DISEASES

a Update on measles surveillance and outbreaks in South Africa, 2017

Measles outbreaks have occurred in three provinces of South Africa since January 2017; Western Cape Province (WCP), Gauteng Province (GP) and KwaZulu-Natal Province (KZP). The outbreak in KZP was declared in August 2017. As of 26 October 2017 there has been a total of 45 laboratory-confirmed cases, one epidemiologically linked and eight compatible measles cases in KZP. The ages of these cases range from eight months to 51 years. The measles cases detected during all three outbreaks have occurred mostly in communities with large groups of unvaccinated individuals.

Outbreak response activities such as contact tracing and measles vaccination have been carried out in schools, health facilities and households. Community mobilisation is being actively carried out via a number of communication channels including face-to-face meetings and radio interviews to encourage persons to participate in vaccination activities.

Health care workers all over South Africa should look out for suspected measles cases, and confirm these through submission of blood and a completed case investigation form to the National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD). The case definition

for a suspected measles case is any person with fever and rash, and one of the following: cough, coryza and conjunctivitis.

Between 1 January and 20 October 2017, a total of 4 510 samples has been received for measles serology and molecular testing. Among these, 185 tested positive for measles IgM and/or PCR from eight provinces; five in Eastern Cape, one in Free State, 92 in Gauteng, 45 in KwaZulu-Natal, three in Limpopo, two in Mpumalanga, nine in North West and 31 in Western Cape (Figure 4).

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

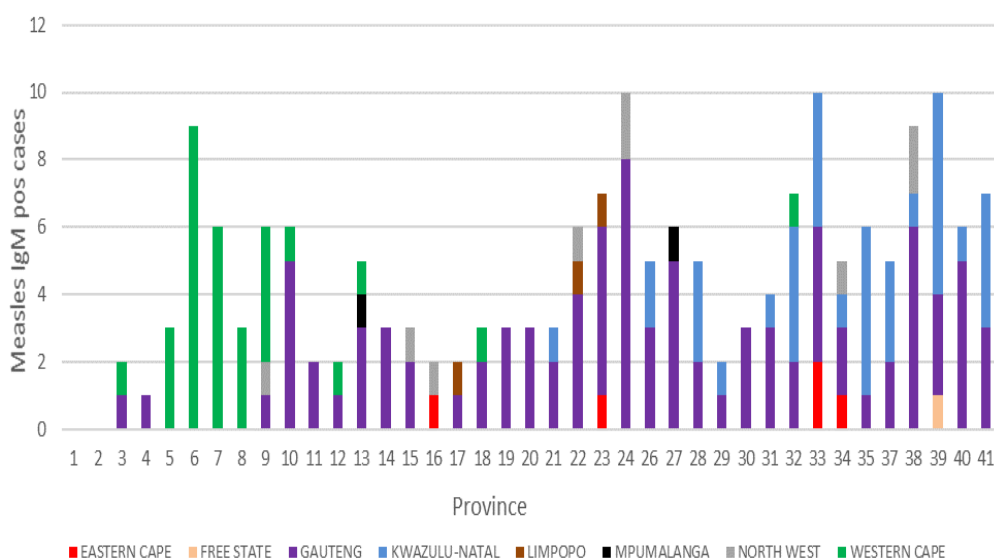


Figure 4. Number of laboratory-confirmed measles cases by province in South Africa (1 January to 20 October 2017).