

To : Editors & Health Journalists

Issued by : National Institute for Communicable Diseases

Date : Thursday, 6 March 2025

NICD has been designated to serve as the Africa CDC Centre of Excellence for National Public Health Institute Development

We are proud to announce that the National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD) has been designated to serve as a regional Centre of Excellence by the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC). This recognition falls under the Africa CDC Regional National Public Health Institutes (NPHIs) Capacity Strengthening Initiative.

NPHIs play a crucial role in strengthening health security across the continent. They drive progress in key areas such as disease surveillance, emergency preparedness, workforce development, laboratory systems, research, and health promotion. To advance this mission, Africa CDC is establishing regional Centres of Excellence (CoEs) to enhance collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and capacity-building among member states through the development of NPHIs.

In acknowledging NICD's designation, Africa CDC stated: "This designation recognises your institution's demonstrated leadership, technical expertise, and commitment to advancing public health systems in Africa. Following a rigorous continent-wide capacity assessment of NPHIs, your institute has been selected as a CoE in recognition of its advanced capacities and leadership's commitment."

As a Centre of Excellence, the NICD will:

1. Serve as a regional hub for peer-to-peer technical assistance, training, and mentorship.
2. Support member states in developing or strengthening core NPHI functions, including disease surveillance, outbreak response, public health research, and workforce development.
3. Facilitate knowledge-sharing and best practices to harmonise public health policies and programmes.
4. Collaborate with Africa CDC to implement regional capacity-building initiatives.

NICD Executive Director, Prof. Adrian Puren, welcomed this recognition, highlighting its significance for strengthening public health on the continent.

“Collaboration and knowledge sharing across the continent will benefit all Africans in achieving the goal of the New Public Health Order. As the African proverb goes: ‘If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.’”

He also commended NICD staff for their dedication, expertise, and commitment to advancing public health.

About NICD

The National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD), a division of the National Health Laboratory Service, is a national public health institute for South Africa, providing disease surveillance, specialised diagnostic services, outbreak response, public health research and capacity building to support the government's response to communicable disease threats. For more information, visit: www.nicd.ac.za

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For enquiries and interview requests, please contact: Media@nicd.ac.za.

Kind regards,

Mr Vuyo Sabani: Senior Communications Manager

National Institute for communicable Diseases