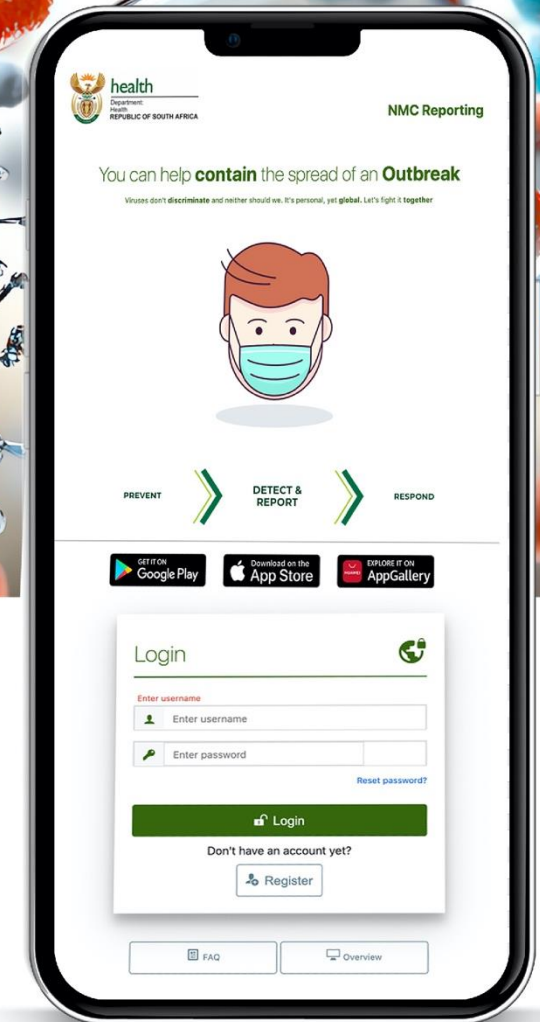
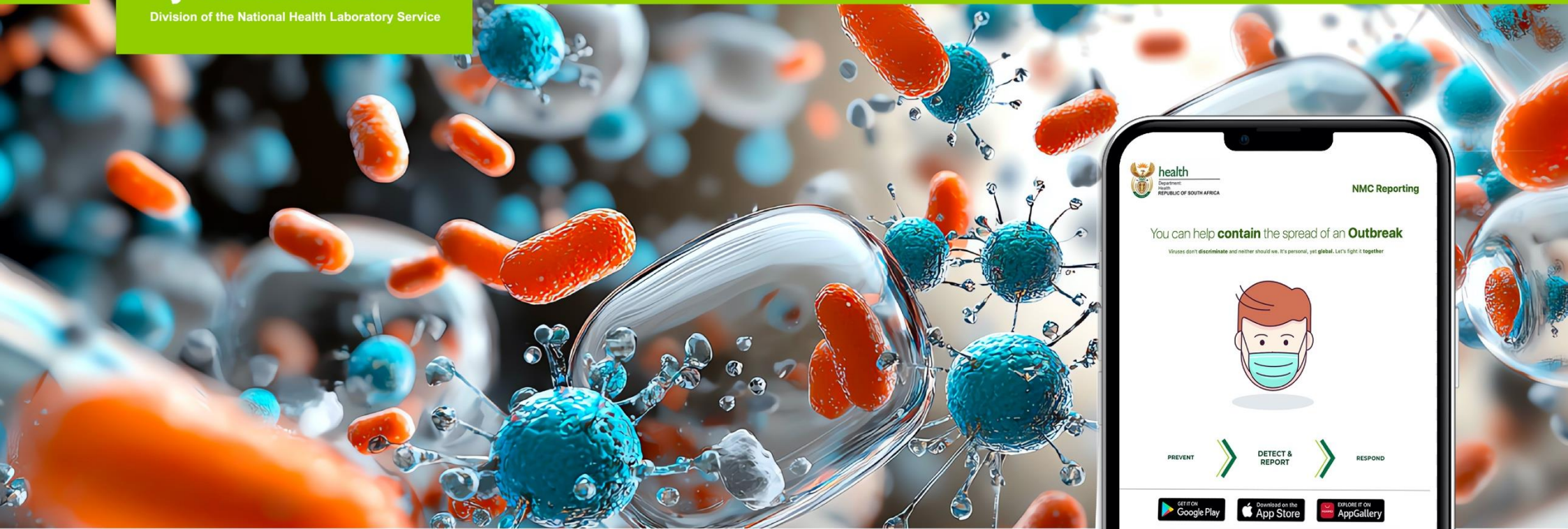




NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR
COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

Division of the National Health Laboratory Service



Notifiable Medical Conditions Surveillance System Report

January-March 2026

Division of Public Health, Surveillance and Response

Introduction

This report summarises National Notifiable Medical Conditions Surveillance System (NMCCS) case notifications from 01 January to 31 March 2026. It covers categories 1, 2, and 3 of notifiable medical conditions (NMCs) and presents the distribution of notifications by case source (clinical, laboratory, and merged cases). The report further describes epidemiological classification and the number of reported deaths. In addition, the timeliness of notifications was assessed.

NMC highlights

- A total of 38 319 cases were notified to the NMCCS from January to March 2026.
- At least 65% of the category 1 clinical notifications were matched to laboratory results.
- The majority of the category 1 notifications were Malaria (n= 2 557, 40%).
- A total of 349 cases of agricultural stock and remedy poisoning were notified.
- Overall, it took a median of less than a day (IQR: 0-1 days) to report category 1 NMCs.

Table 1: NMC notifications by month of notification, January to March 2026

Categories	January 2026 (n=12 684)			February 2026 (n=13 038)			March 2026 (n=12 597)			Total
	Clinical	Lab	Merged	Clinical	Lab	Merged	Clinical	Lab	Merged	
1	1 125(11.1%)	481(24.1%)	382(65.7%)	1 387(13.2%)	397(19.1%)	313(65.8%)	1 445(14.4%)	529(25.6%)	356(77.6%)	6 415 (16,7%)
2	8 978(88.9%)	1 381(69.1%)	188(32.4%)	9 095(86.8%)	1 565(75.2%)	158(33.2%)	8 623(85.6%)	1 408(68.0%)	98(21.4%)	31 494 (82.2%)
3	n/a	138(6.9%)	11(1.9%)	n/a	118	5(1.1%)	n/a	133(6.4%)	5(1.1%)	410 (1.1%)
Total	10 103	2 000	581	10 482	2 080	476	10 068	2070	459	38 319

Category 1 Conditions

A total of 6 415 (16.7%) category 1 cases were reported (**Table 2**). The majority of the notifications were Malaria (n=2 557, 39.9%). There is a notably high number of measles notifications, and the weekly measles and [rubella situational reports](#) and [measles/rubella dashboards](#) provide detailed epidemiological analysis.

The majority (54,4%) of the agricultural or stock remedy poisoning cases were reported in Gauteng (**Table 3**). Further epidemiological classification of diphtheria notifications is underway, and the [weekly situational report](#) provides detailed epidemiological analysis. The majority of category 1 notifications were notified in ISO week 12 (n=614; **Table 4**)

Table 2: Category 1 notifications by province, January to March 2026

Conditions	EC	FS	GP	KZN	LP	MP	NC	NW	WC	Total
Acute Flaccid Paralysis	8	2	22	20	11	1	4	3	5	76
Acute Rheumatic Fever	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	4	6
Agricultural or stock remedy poisoning	11	58	190	14	16	14	2	13	31	349
Anthrax	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Botulism	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Cholera	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
Congenital rubella syndrome	1	0	4	6	0	0	1	0	0	12
Crimean-Congo viral haemorrhagic fever (human)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Diphtheria	1	0	3	4	1	2	0	0	43	54
Enteric fever (typhoid or paratyphoid fever)	2	1	57	2	1	24	0	5	10	102
Food borne illness outbreak	21	12	46	38	6	23	2	9	10	167
Haemolytic uraemic syndrome (HUS)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Listeriosis	0	1	10	4	0	1	0	0	3	19
Malaria	33	26	440	650	565	676	6	94	67	2 557
Measles	166	98	170	130	139	212	159	50	1 192	2 316
Meningococcal Disease	6	1	12	2	2	0	1	0	19	43
Mpox	0	0	2	7	0	0	0	0	2	11
Pertussis	18	25	125	78	4	18	4	27	91	390
Plague	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Poliomyelitis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rabies (human)	6	0	5	3	1	1	0	1	2	19
Respiratory disease caused by a novel respiratory pathogen	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rift Valley fever (human)	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Rubella	13	35	33	31	17	26	25	30	76	286
Smallpox	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Viral haemorrhagic fever diseases	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Waterborne illness outbreak - UNDEFINED	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Yellow fever	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	289	260	1 122	991	763	999	204	232	1 555	6 415

Table 3: Category 1 NMC notifications by epidemiological classification and vital status, January to March 2026

Condition	Epidemiological classification					Vital Status			
	Clinical notification	Laboratory notification	Confirmed case	Probable case	Suspected case	Total	Alive	Deceased	Unknown
Acute Flaccid Paralysis	76	0	0	0	0	76	76	0	0
Acute Rheumatic Fever	3	0	1	1	1	6	6	0	0
Agricultural or stock remedy poisoning	349	0	0	0	0	349	277	61	11
Anthrax	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Botulism	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Cholera	3	0	0	0	0	3	3	0	0
Congenital rubella syndrome	2	9	1	0	0	12	11	1	0
Crimean-Congo viral haemorrhagic fever (human)	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Diphtheria*	34	3	14	0	1	52	49	1	4
Enteric fever (typhoid or paratyphoid fever)	34	34	34	0	0	102	80	1	21
Food borne illness outbreak	167	0	0	0	0	167	164	3	0
Listeriosis	1	9	9	0	0	19	10	2	7
Malaria**	1 573	882	102	0	0	2 557	1 925	20	612
Measles	1 363	587	366	0	0	2 316	1 531	2	783
Meningococcal Disease	2	1	32	0	8	43	32	5	0
Mpox	8	0	3	0	0	11	11	0	0
Pertussis	85	10	253	17	25	390	352	2	36
Rabies (human)	15	2	2	0	0	19	14	5	0
Rift Valley Fever (human)	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Rubella	37	248	1	0	0	286	57	0	229
Waterborne illness outbreak - UNDEFINED	1	0		0	0	1	1	0	0
Total	3 757	1 785	818	18	35	6 413	4 603	103	46

*Two Diphtheria cases were reported as asymptomatic carriers. ** Malaria diagnosis method: Rapid test (n= 1 284), Laboratory confirmed (1 273).

Table 4: Category 1 NMC distribution by week of notification, January to March 2026.

Category 1 conditions	Jan'26					January Total	Feb'26					February Total	Mar'26						March Total
	1	2	3	4	5		5	6	7	8	9		9	10	11	12	13	14	
Acute Flaccid Paralysis	3	6	8	5	5	27	0	5	10	9	2	26	0	3	4	6	8	2	23
Acute Rheumatic Fever	1	1	1	1	0	4	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Agricultural or stock remedy poisoning	3	32	18	28	31	112	2	39	26	13	43	123	1	36	22	24	22	9	114
Anthrax	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Botulism	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cholera	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Congenital rubella syndrome	1	1	0	2	0	4	0	0	0	0	2	2	1	1	1	2	1	0	6
Crimean-Congo viral haemorrhagic fever (human)	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Diphtheria	1	4	6	5	0	16	1	4	6	1	2	14	1	3	4	5	10	1	24
Enteric fever (typhoid or paratyphoid fever)	1	3	6	6	8	24	0	10	7	10	10	37	0	10	13	11	6	1	41
Food borne illness outbreak		8	4	5	23	40	0	14	20	16	14	64	1	26	8	13	11	4	63
Listeriosis	0	0	1	2	4	7	0	1	1	0	1	3	0	2	2	2	3	0	9
Malaria	85	159	306	269	187	1 006	15	202	215	222	169	823	5	159	119	215	180	50	728
Measles	53	152	140	84	96	525	5	196	153	182	202	738	14	174	258	280	246	81	1 053
Meningococcal Disease	1	6	4	2	3	16	0	4	6	4	3	17	0	3	4	1	1	1	10
Mpox	0	1	1	1	2	5	0	1		1	3	5	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Pertussis	5	36	36	37	30	144	1	20	27	37	26	111	1	31	22	36	28	17	135
Rabies (human)		2	2	1	1	6		1	2	2	3	8		1	2		2		5
Rift Valley Fever (human)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Rubella	3	15	10	10	11	49		33	33	18	38	122	2	26	39	17	22	9	115
Waterborne illness outbreak - UNDEFINED	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	158	426	543	459	402	1 988	24	531	507	516	519	2 097	26	475	499	614	540	176	2 330

Distribution of Category 1 and 2 NMC notifications by age and sex, January to March 2026

For both categories 1 and 2, the majority of the notifications were male (**Table 5**). Among category 1 NMCs, the majority were younger age groups compared to category 2, affecting the middle-aged groups.

Table 5: NMC categories 1 and 2 notifications by age and sex, January to March 2026

Age groups	Category 1				Category 2				Total
	Female	Male	Unknown	Total	Female	Male	Unknown	Total	
0-4	597	600	0	1 197	698	842	9	1549	2 746
5-9	603	595	1	1 199	305	454	0	759	1 958
10-14	231	298	1	530	345	739	1	1 085	1 615
15-19	164	247	0	411	895	1 080	1	1 976	2 387
20-24	224	304	0	528	1 146	1 149	0	2 295	2 823
25-29	199	317	0	516	1 277	1 338	1	2 616	3 132
30-34	178	259	0	437	1 667	1 945	0	3 612	4 049
35-39	162	204	0	366	1 677	2 363	1	4 041	4 407
40-44	95	162	0	257	1 307	2 209	0	3 516	3 773
45-49	74	125	0	199	913	1 734	0	2 647	2 846
50-54	47	101	0	148	789	1 399	0	2 188	2 336
55-59	29	50	0	79	540	1 101	0	1 641	1 720
60-64	22	44	0	66	429	784	0	1 213	1 279
65+	44	65	0	109	832	1 067	0	18 99	2 008
Unknown	157	216	0	373	150	307	0	457	830
Total	2826	3587	2	6 415	12 970	18 511	13	31 494	37 909

Category 2 Notifications

The commonly notified category 2 conditions are multidrug-resistant (n=20 849) and extensively drug-resistant (n=4 234) tuberculosis(**Table 6**). The [End TB dashboard](#) provides detailed epidemiological data on TB in South Africa.

Table 6: Category 2 notifications by province, January to March 2026

Conditions	EC	FS	GP	KZN	LP	MP	NC	NW	WC	Total
Bilharzia (schistosomiasis)	108	6	62	862	545	245	0	10	59	1 897
Brucellosis	0	1	2	1	0	1	0	2	0	7
Congenital syphilis	46	6	40	32	3	3	6	3	119	258
Haemophilus influenzae type B	0	0	4	0	1	0	0	0	3	8
Hepatitis A	37	57	151	88	51	49	17	49	151	650
Hepatitis B	397	90	246	1 890	22	38	60	81	45	2 869
Hepatitis C	2	0	29	10	1	6	4	2	4	58
Hepatitis E	0	1	2	0	0	0	1		3	7
Lead poisoning	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3
Legionellosis	6	1	9	5	0	1	0	2	9	33
Leprosy	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	4
Maternal death (pregnancy, childbirth and puerperium)	1	0	9	3	6	4	0	1	2	26
Mercury poisoning	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Soil-transmitted helminths	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	3
Tetanus	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	5
Tuberculosis: pulmonary	6	2	6	5	2	3	0	5	4	33
Tuberculosis: extra-pulmonary	67	25	129	164	15	6	17	11	116	550
Tuberculosis: extensively drug-resistant (XDR -TB)	361	178	1 538	953	165	117	148	236	538	4 234
Tuberculosis: multidrug- resistant (MDR -TB)	2 325	1 148	4 229	4 497	947	706	1 246	1 191	4 560	20 849
Total	3 357	1 515	6 458	8 515	1 759	1 183	1 500	1 593	5 614	31 494

Category 3 conditions

The Western Cape reported the highest number of cases (54.6%) in Category 3 condition, including a case of Zika Virus infection (**Table 7**).

Table 7: Distribution of Category 3 notification by province, January to March 2026

Category 3 conditions	EC	FS	GP	KZN	MP	NC	NW	WC	Total
Non-endemic arbovirus disease: Dengue Fever Virus	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	5
Endemic arboviral diseases: Chikungunya virus	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	4
Endemic arboviral diseases: West Nile Virus	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	1	4
Non-typhoidal Salmonellosis	30	5	11	0	0	0	0	110	156
Shigellosis	47	8	35	28	8	3	1	110	240
Zika Virus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Total	77	13	56	28	8	3	1	224	410

Timeliness in Reporting Category 1 Notifiable Medical Conditions

Timeliness is measured as the number of days from the time of diagnosis of the NMC to the time of notification. Overall, it took a median of less than a day (IQR: 0- 1 days) to report category 1 NMCs from January to March 2026 (**Table 8**).

Table 8: Time to notification of category 1 and 2 NMC, January to March 2026

		Province									Overall
		EC	FS	GP	KZN	LP	MP	NC	NW	WC	
Category 1	n	192	146	891	911	516	740	133	114	1 137	4 780
	Median (IQR*)	0(0-2)	1(0-2)	1(0-2)	0(0-1)	0(0-1)	0	0(0-1)	0(0-1)	0(0-1)	0(0-1)
Category 2	n	2 879	1 395	6 266	6 082	1 228	905	1 447	1 475	5 459	27 136
	Median (IQR)	3 (0-11)	4(0-18)	3(0-12)	2(0-9)	1(0-5)	1(0-6)	4(0-17)	3(0-12)	2(0-7)	2(0-10)

*IQR: Interquartile range

Recommendations

- We recommend that clinicians complete all patient clinical and demographic details to improve NMC data quality.
- Feel free to reach out to NMCsurveillanceReport@nicd.ac.za

Additional resources

NMC reporting tutorials video: <https://www.nicd.ac.za/nmc-overview/tutorial-videos/>

NMC Categories, and Case Classification Definitions: <https://www.nicd.ac.za/nmc-overview/nmc-resources/>

NMC Surveillance Officers List and contacts

Province	Name & Surname	Email address	Cell Numbers
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The End!