



KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE
HEALTH
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

ESTCOURT HOSPITAL

EZASEMTSHEZI

NEWS

DECEMBER 2021

ESTCOURT HOSPITAL WELCOMES THE CHRISTMAS BABY



2021/12/25 11:54

Maternity ward staff showered the special baby with gifts



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WORLD AIDS DAY COMMEMORATION AT GATEWAY CLINIC

It is important to acknowledge strides made by all role players in the fight against HIV/AIDS pandemic nevertheless there is still a long way to go to end this pandemic. The theme for World Aids Day 2021 is End Inequalities. End Aids. End pandemic.

Estcourt Hospital Gateway clinic commemorated Worlds Aids Day on the 02 December 2021 and the event was attended by patients and clients that are using this facility. The aim of the event was to pledge their support to those that are living with the virus and to encourage them to adhere to treatment.

Stigma remains a challenge to those living with HIV/AIDS and they find it difficult to disclose their status even to family members. They have to do what it takes for them to fit in their social circles even default treatment.

The world is faced by the dual pandemic which is HIV/AIDS and Covid-19. In her remarks,

Operation Manager of Gateway clinic, Sr. Dlamini pleaded with community within the gateway catchment area not to be complacent but rather play an active role in the fight against this dual pandemic.



Attendees pledges to play their role in the fight against HIV/AIDS pandemic



Members of the legislature doing walk about with the Mayor of Inkosi Langalibalele Cllr. Mbele and Honourable Speaker of Uthukela District



CLOSING PRAYER AT THE HOSPITAL



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Estcourt hospital employees had a closing prayer to give glory to God for his love, guidance and protection as they continue to fight against Covid-19 pandemic. The prayer was held on the 25 November 2021. This event was blessed by the presence of Rev. Shangase, the Provincial Chaplain and he delivered the word of God on the day. Mr. M. Bekenya, CEO commended staff for their dedication, commitment and courage as the institution continue to battle the scourge of Covid-19 pandemic. He also sent his deepest gratitude to the organizing team and the Chaplain of the institution Rev. Hadebe.



Attendees pledges to play their role in the fight against HIV/AIDS pandemic



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1. Rev. Nkosi 2. Rev. Shangase 3. Mr. M. Bekenya- CEO 4. Chaplain Rev . Hadebe leading Estcourt hospital employees in worship



COVID-19 HAS A NEGATIVE IMPACT ON MENTAL HEALTH

October is mental health awareness month and Estcourt Hospital has targeted different outpatients departments including PHC facilities to educate people about the importance of mental health. All builds-up activities to Mental Health Awareness day were done in October and the event was on the 7 November 2021. The objective was to acknowledge that Covid-19 and other socio-economic factors have a negative impact on mental health of some of the people and to encourage them to seek help as soon as possible.

The Mental Health Awareness Day was kick started with health education on mental health at OPD/ Casualty. Psychologists explained different signs that people should look out for when one has mental health problem. Those that are suffering from mental health were urged to

acknowledge that they need assistance as a first step to the healing process.

Also available on the day were relatives of mental healthcare users accompanying them to the psych clinic and were welcomed by the hospital management. Relatives were urged to ensure that they report when mentally ill patients are complaining of side effects and also report when there is a sudden change in behavior so that necessary interventions can be made. The importance of adherence to treatment was also emphasized so that patients' condition can be controlled. At the end patients were taught basic physical exercise that they can do at home for them to be healthy. Relatives were urged to take care of mental healthcare users and support them as we continue to fight against Covid-19.



Psychologists talking to patients about the different signs of depression



Roswyn, physiotherapist teaching patients basic physical exercise



Ms. Mathebula urging relatives to care of Mental Healthcare users and report if there are challenges for assistance



LAUNCH OF VOOMA VACCINATION WEEKEND



Minister of Health Dr Joe Phaahla getting progress report on vaccination program

Dr. Joe Phaahla appealing to Estcourt community to get vaccinated



Estcourt community waiting patiently to get their jobs during the launch of Vooma Vaccination Weekend at the taxi rank

Estcourt hospital launched Vooma weekend on the 01 October 2021 which is a national initiative to increase Covid-19 uptake. There were constraints with the supply of vaccination that saw a slow start to its roll-out. There are plenty of vaccines available now but the program is now faced with the low demand driven by inadequate access to vaccination sites and hesitancy as a result of concerns about vaccine safety.

Vooma weekend initiative was started to bridge the gaps identified. The launch was honoured by the presence of the Minister of Health, Dr Joe Phaahla accompanied by the Provincial delegation led by KZN Head of Health Dr. Tshabalala and the District team lead by Ms. L. Phungula. Dr Phaahla was impressed by the turnout and he also interacted with street vendors and pleaded them to get vaccinated and further assured them that vaccine is safe.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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