



SIKHANYAKUDE

NEWS

STAY INFORMED

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HEALTH MEC TAKES COVID – 19 AWARENESS BLITZ TO UMKHANYAKUDE

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MEC's loudhailing programme in Umkhanyakude



District Director M.P. Themba

MEC Nomagugu Simelane addressing people



Mayor Cllr V.T. Ncamphalala

Mayor Cllr T.S. Mkhombo



MEC's loudhailing programme at Mtubatuba

On 1st April 2021, KwaZulu-Natal Health MEC Ms Nomagugu Simelane took her COVID – 19 loud-hailing blitz to Umkhanyakude District, where she made an impassioned plea for responsible public behaviour during the busy Easter holidays.

As part of concerted efforts to curb the spread of COVID – 19, MEC Simelane has been continuously engaging with the public in various districts of KZN, using loud-hailing and electronic mass media platforms to disseminate important messages about COVID-19.

The MEC has been consistent and unequivocal in her public engagements: COVID – 19 is still killing people, and if we are to stem its deadly tide, we should all wear face masks when venturing out to the public and at home, when in the company of elderly people or those with co-morbidities, regular hand washing or sanitization and maintaining social distancing of at least 1.5 are all non-negotiables.

The MEC, was accompanied by Imbewu actress Brenda Mhlongo, Umkhanyakude District Mayor, Cllr Solomon Mkhombo; Mtubatuba Local

Municipality Mayor, Thobelani Ncamphalala and his deputy, Mbongeleni Gina.

The delegation visited Ward 10, at Zamimpilo; Ward 03, at Khula Village; Ward 05, at Mtubatuba Town; and Ward 01, at KwaMsane area.

The MEC also encouraged the public to welcome and participate in the vaccination rollout programme soon when the vaccines become available to the public.



Unicef Health Promotion Truck Visited Umkhanyakude



Health education activities



Health services



Stakeholders during UNICEF health promotion truck



This activity was very important due to widespread misinformation about vaccines which are likely to create resistance when the time comes for community members to be vaccinated.



Covid rapid testing

Unicef South Africa partnered with KZN department of Health and visited Umkhanyakude towns viz Mtubatuba and Hluhluwe on 25th February 2021 to conduct a health promotion programme. This was done through a sound-fitted truck that drove around towns creating awareness on Covid-19 and promoting usage of vaccines.

Furthermore, there were health education sessions, distribution of educational pamphlets and provision of health services. Health promotion programs such as this aim to engage and empower individuals and communities to choose healthy behaviours, and make changes that reduce the risk of developing chronic diseases and other morbidities.



Covid-19 vaccination preparedness



Health teams inspecting Mseleni Pharmacy in preparation for vaccination

Umkhanyakude Health District conducted Covid-19 vaccination readiness assessments in all its facilities during the 4th quarter of 2020/21 financial year. This was a very crucial activity to establish challenges earlier so that they may be addressed.



Emergency trolley being audited at Mosvold Hospital



Security services

Furthermore, as part of readiness plan, all district hospitals conducted Dry Run programmes where staff simulated a vaccination day starting from entrance, data management, screening, waiting areas, main vaccination areas up to post vaccination. Through these activities, the purpose was to 'dot the i's and cross the t's' as far as vaccination is concerned.



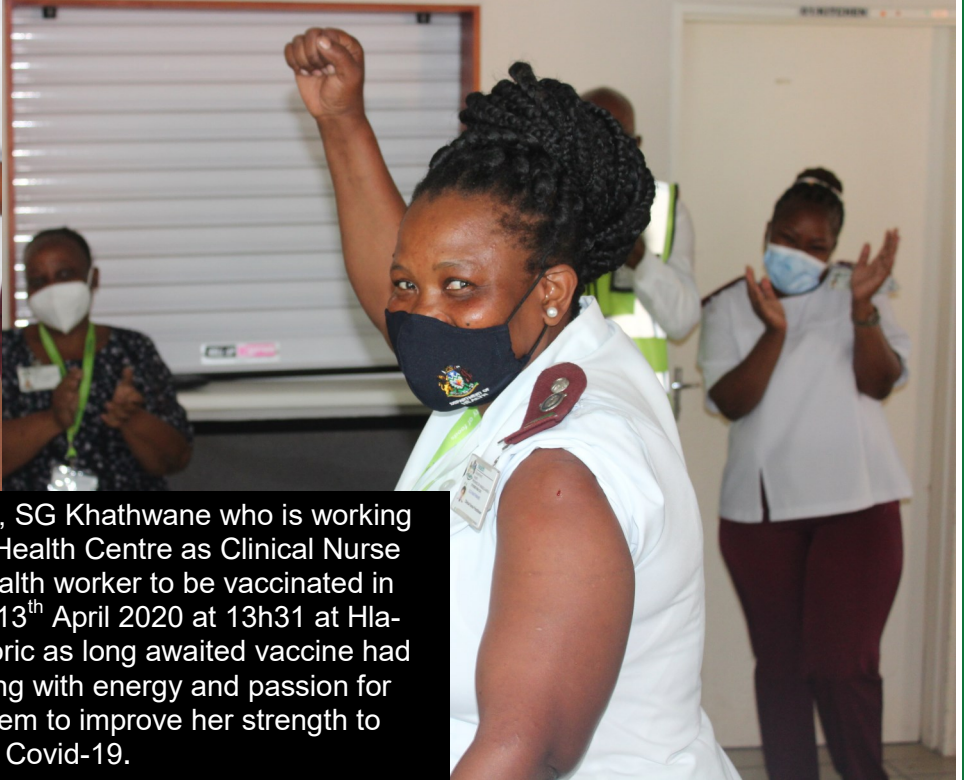
Vaccination simulation



Data management



History was made: the very first health worker to be vaccinated in Umkhanyakude: 13th April 2020 at Hlabisa Hospital



A very much energetic nurse, SG Khathwane who is working at Othobothini Community Health Centre as Clinical Nurse Practitioner was the first health worker to be vaccinated in Umkhanyakude District on 13th April 2020 at 13h31 at Hlabisa Hospital. The moment was historic as long awaited vaccine had arrived in the district. She was bristling with energy and passion for her work, being vaccinated would seem to improve her strength to nurse patients amid the pandemic of Covid-19.

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Covid-19 Rapid Testing Launch



On 20th January 2020 UMkhanyakude District Mayor Cllr Solomon Mkhombo launched Covid-19 Rapid Testing Programme at Mbazwana Clinic.

This would assist greatly in fighting the epidemic as the results for patients would quickly come back in 15 minutes whereas the normal testing system took couple of days depending on the volumes of specimens in laboratories; this mechanism would assist in fast-tracking triaging and treatment of patients.

All hospitals in Umkhanyakude embarked on this programme covering all four (4) local municipalities, including Kosi Bay Boarder Post.



I CHOOSE
#VacciNation

I choose to vaccinate to protect the people I love - it will only work if we all do it.
Dr Zweli Mkhize - Minister of Health



Vaccination is a simple, safe, and effective way of protecting people against harmful diseases

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Welcoming of New Year Babies

Two New Year babies delivered at Manguzi Hospital were welcomed with gifts from MEC for Health in KwaZulu-Natal Ms Nomagugu Simelane



MEC Simelane said: “We would like to congratulate all the families of the babies who have been born on the first day of year 2021. These are, indeed special babies.

“The health and wellbeing of babies is something that we take very seriously at the KZN Department of Health. We therefore urge all new mothers across the province to ensure that they give their babies breast milk exclusively, at least for the first six months of their lives.

“We know that is it not always possible, but they really should try, because breastfeeding has major health benefits. It strengthens the babies’ immune system, and also makes

the bond between mother and baby very strong.

“We also urge mothers to follow the immunisation schedule as stipulated in the Road to Health chart because that way, babies are able to build and strengthen their bodies’ ability to fight most childhood ailments, so that they can stay healthy and thrive.



I NEED YOUR SUPPORT

#COVID -19 STIGMA MUST FALL

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