



KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE
HEALTH
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

ILEMBE DISTRICT

ILEMBE

NEWS

Nov-March 2022

To be better than the best in achieving optimal health status

ANSWER THE CALL, GET VACCINATED



DEPUTY HEALTH MINISTER: DR. S. DHLOMO LEADING THE TEAM DURING VOOMA WEEKEND

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Groutville Ezitendeni area Deputy Health Minister visit

National Deputy Health Minister Dr. Sibongiseni Dhlomo attended a Vooma vaccination site in Groutville ezitendeni area (KwaDukuza Local Municipality) on the 14th of November 2021. Together with his delegation they started by attending a local church service in order to address the congregants about the importance of being vaccinated as a measure to curb the spread of the covid-19 virus, especially for indoor gatherings like churches.

Upon reaching the pop-up vaccination site at Ezitendeni area, they started by observing if all the protocols and equipment for the vaccination site was proper and in the right condition. The Minister had one on one discussions with the staff at the site and community members who came in numbers to get their covid-19 vaccine jabs.

The atmosphere was a calm and friendly one as the Minister was engaging with people using a touch of humor to keep everybody at ease and inspired with a positive outlook despite the hard work that is always taking place during the vaccination drives.

The Minister accompanied by the Ilembe Health district management also embarked on a door to door campaign to distribute IEC material and talk to people encouraging them to get vaccinated, roving teams were also nearby to assist those who wished to get vaccinated within their places of residence. The day was a great success, thanks to staff and District management members for their commitment.



Pop up site during vooma weekend



Pop up site during vooma weekend



District Director and Team



Siyagoma waya waya Covid-19 Vaccine door to door campaign

From the 23rd of February 2022 to the 27th of February 2022 a covid-19 vaccination campaign was launched by the Ilembe Health district across all four of it's sub-Districts (KwaDukuza, Mandeni, Maphumulo & Ndwedwe).

The aim of the campaign was to reach out to community members who are in some of the most remote areas in each sub-district. People in some areas are not vaccinated because they might have obstacles like lack of transport money thus it was really helpful to bring the services closer to them

The campaign was important for gaining an insight to some of the opinions and reasons of people who refuse to get vaccinated. The campaign enabled health workers to interact with community members in person to hear what myths are being spread and are prevalent in a particular area and reasons for those myths to persist.

Most community members were willing to engage and have a civil dialogue with health care workers and ask questions regarding the concerns they may have with regards to the covid-19 vaccines

Through this door to door campaign, many people were vaccinated that might have otherwise remained unvaccinated and at risk of contracting covid-19 especially those who are between the ages of 60 and above.



NDWEDWE MISSION AREA



MANDENI : KWASITHEBE AREA DOOR TO DOOR



KWAMAPHUMULO DOOR TO DOOR

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ISIBAYA SAMADODA: DEALING WITH MEN'S HEALTH

On the 22nd of January 2022 an event was held at Isikhonyane Magistrate court, Ndulinde area in Mandeni, the name of the event is Isibaya Samadoda, which is a health awareness campaign aimed mainly at the well being of males and those that are close to them.

The event organized by I Lembe Health District in liaison with traditional leadership and other civil organization drew large numbers from the community and beyond.

The event proved to be a success as it was evident in the number of people who turned up to be a part of and support the initiative by the Department of Health.

The focus was on well being and dealing with certain health issues and prevention measures to be taken to avert some health issues that males might come across.

As expected the covid-19 pandemic that the whole world is currently enduring was discussed and safety measures were of paramount importance, men were encouraged to get vaccinated for covid-19 as statistics show that the uptake of the vaccine among males remains low compared to their female counterparts.

However we should not allow covid-19 to take away focus from other health issues that ordinary citizens go through, there was also a lengthy dialogue on something that is somewhat a pandemic of it's own and that is Gender Based Violence (GBV).

The dialogue went on to include sexual health and safety measures to prevent STI's and the spread of HIV, under this umbrella topic there was a dialogue about condom marketing and medical male circumcision (MMC) as preventive measures to curb the spread of HIV.

Lastly there was a talk on mental health, men were encouraged not to suffer silently, depression in communities is usually not given the attention it deserves, the department of health aims to break the stigma associated with mental health to help people deal with it.



SPHESIHLE MATHONSI: ILEMBE DISTRICT HEALTH PROMOTER



TRADITIONAL LEADERSHIP



COMMUNITY MEMBERS CAME OUT IN NUMBERS

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SCHOOLS VACCINATION DRIVE

The ILembe Department of Health, in partnership with the Department of Education have commenced with the school vaccination drive with the aim of improving the covid-19 vaccine uptake amongst the 12-17 years age group.

This comes as schools have returned to full capacity attendance. The aim of the drive is to ensure that the number of vaccinated learners is greater to limit the spread of the virus and to prevent severe illness should some learners contract the corona virus.

The vaccination outreach teams will be travelling to some of the schools within the district to erect pop-up vaccination sites inside the school premises so as to allow learners easy and quick access to the service, where they will be able to get their jabs and go back to class without the process of teaching and learning being disturbed.

Young people are being urged to utilize this opportunity to minimize the risks associated with contracting covid-19 while unvaccinated. We are gearing up towards returning the world to it's pre covid-19 state and we shall only be able to achieve that if we work together with the department of health and helping ourselves through vaccinating.



TEENAGE PREGNANCY IS RISING, A CAUSE FOR CONCERN

The Provincial Department of Health in partnership with Operation Sukuma Sakhe, NGOs, CBOs, private sector and other stakeholders hosted a successful teenage pregnancy activity on 22 February 2022 at Maphumulo Community hall. The purpose of this engagement was to develop strategies to mitigate teenage pregnancy in the district. Statistics on teenage pregnancy in the district for quarter three (10-19 years) was shared with stakeholders per local Municipality as follows: KwaDukuza had 18.4%, Mandeni had 15.2%, Ndwedwe had 20.9% and Maphumulo was at 20%.

It transpired that Maphumulo Local Municipality has the highest rate of teenage pregnancy as compared to other sub-districts. Different programmes or strategies that might help in reducing teenage pregnancy were unpacked by stakeholders like Happy hour, Youth friendly services., increased access to sexual and reproductive health services. Other community engagement platforms for teenagers and youth to air their views about teenage pregnancy. The Department of Social Development also presented their programmes that can assist in the reduction of teenage pregnancy like “Yolo” and “Chomo” programmes which target learners between the age of 15-24. The programme was a great success!!



Officials during teenage pregnancy awareness



Mrs Mungwe addressing the audience



Audience during teenage pregnancy



HPV VACCINATION CAMPAIGN

The Department of Health in collaboration with the Department of Education conducted the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccination campaign. The campaign targets female grade 5 learners from the ages of 9 up wards.

What is the Human Papilloma Virus if one might ask? It is a virus that can spread into the cervix and cause abnormal cells, these abnormal cells can lead to the development of cervical cancer as the child gets older.

This annual campaign commenced on the 14th of February 2022 and concluded on the 25th of March 2022. Parents were urged to sign the consent forms for the HPV vaccine to keep their children safe from the virus.

The HPV vaccine is safe and has been around for a number of years since it's rollout started in the year 2014. The vaccine requires two doses at six months intervals. The first doses are administered from February to March and the second doses from August to September annually.

The HPV vaccine is an effective measure for the prevention of cervical cancer and the Department of Health would like to extend its gratitude to the parents and the Department of Education for their continued support to make this campaign successful.

HPV vaccination campaign

To protect girls from cervical cancer caused by the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV), the department will implement a national HPV vaccination campaign from 21 February to 28 March



Protecting young girls, the future women of South Africa



“ HPV vaccination reduces chances of cervical Cancer. ”

#NationalCANCERCampaign

A long and healthy life for all South Africans

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EDITORIAL TEAM

Miss T. M Banda
Senior Editor

Mrs B. Zulu: AD Communications
Editor

Mr. M. Cele
Writer

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