



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

CORPORATE COMMUNICATION SERVICES

Natalia, 330 Longmarket Street, Pietermaritzburg, 3201
Private Bag X9051, Pietermaritzburg, 3200
Tel.: 033 395 2220, Fax.: 033 845 0378
thusim@dohho.kzntl.gov.za

TO: ALL MEDIA

DATE: 8 SEPTEMBER 2005

EMBARGO: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEASLES AND POLIO CAMPAIGN

The welfare of the children of KwaZulu-Natal is of primary concern to the Department of Health, KwaZulu-Natal. Concerns have been raised, by some parents, that the vaccines that the Department is administering during the Measles and Polio campaign, have expired. The Department of Health would like to take this opportunity to reassure the public that the vaccines used for the Measles and Polio Campaign and ongoing for routine immunisation schedules, are of the highest quality. Strict control is maintained over potency of vaccines, therefore all vaccine labels clearly indicate the "date of manufacture", "Lot number" and "expiry date" of the vaccine.

All vials of polio vaccine have an additional monitor called a vaccine vial monitor, that is attached to the vial, which is an accurate indicator to monitor the potency of the vaccine (ensuring that it has not been exposed to heat and light).

The Measles vaccine is manufactured by Sanofi Pasteur, and is imported from France. On arrival in South Africa, it is held in quarantine for a period of 6 to 8 weeks while being tested by the National Control Laboratory for the Medicine Control Council. Only after the vaccine has met the required standards, is it distributed via Biovac to the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial vaccine depot. It is then re-packed according to orders received from the Clinics and Hospitals in this province and delivered by the vaccine depot to these facilities. During transportation and storage at facility level, strict control is maintained of the temperature and storage conditions. The public can thus be assured that processes are in place with strict monitoring to ensure that all vaccines and medicines are of the highest quality before being administered.

Once again we would like to reassure parents of our commitment to the health and welfare of the children of KwaZulu-Natal

For further information please contact John Friggens, EPI Cold Chain Co-ordinator on 0833813884



-
- KINDLY RETURN ALL DOCUMENTATION WHEN REPLYING