

# Media statement by KZN Health MEC, Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo on polio immunisation catch-up programme

22 August 2014

As KZN Health Department we appeal to the Media to come on board as partners in the quest to ensure that all the children of the Province are immunized.

It will be remembered that earlier this year South Africa experienced a country-wide shortage of the Oral Polio Vaccine.

South Africa has now replenished the stocks. As from the 18th August the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health embarked on a catch up immunization drive at the hospitals, clinics and crèche's for children in the following categories:

- All children who have never been immunized
- Those who have missed their doses of immunization or missed their immunization altogether
- Those that stopped taking their children for immunization because they have lost their Road to Health cards/booklet
- All other children due for their routine immunization

We thus appeal to the media to assist the Department in creating awareness that will make all parents or legal guardians to heed this call to get their children immunized.

Our emphasis here is the fact that immunizing of children is crucial in the prevention of childhood diseases and creation of life-long immunity (general defense against diseases).

Again, we emphasize the fact that we are in a position to cover all those who missed out as would be indicated in their Road of Health booklet for each new born where it will be clearly marked that no OPV vaccination has been received. Our health facilities have also been keeping track of these details accordingly.

We are indeed ready for the catch-up phase as we will be utilizing our Community Care Givers to assist and also to trace mothers and babies that missed out earlier.

The Polio Vaccination is now available and let us all work to ensure that all our children are protected.

I thank you  
KZN HEALTH MEC  
DR SM DHLOMO