

# Media statement regarding news reports on Listeriosis in Ladysmith

19 March 2018

THE KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health has been inundated with media enquiries following the publication of an article about listeriosis by a Ladysmith-based newspaper at the weekend.

As part of efforts to avoid unnecessary panic, and the dissemination of inaccurate information, the department wishes to appeal to the media to be patient as it awaits the weekly consolidated Situational Analysis Report from the National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD), due for publication on Wednesday, 21 March 2018.

The NICD is a technical organisation responsible for performing epidemiological and laboratory investigations of infectious diseases of public health importance. This work is funded by and done on behalf of the Department of Health so that appropriate action can be taken to protect the public's health.

In the meantime, the Department wishes to thank the media for its role empowering the public by disseminating information on how the public can stay safe while the outbreak of listeriosis is being dealt with by the competent authorities.

ENDS

Issued on behalf of Ms Ncumisa Mafunda, spokesperson for the KZN Department of Health