
TO: ALL MEDIA

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DEPARTMENT EMBARKS ON A POLIO CAMPAIGN

The Provincial Department of Health has embarked on a polio immunization campaign throughout the Province of KwaZulu-Natal to give children under the age of 5 years a booster dose of Polio vaccine to provide additional protection against Polio. **The campaign will be conducted from 8th – 14th October 2006.**

Members of the public should take note that this dose does not replace the routine immunization. It is the responsibility of every parent or caregiver to ensure that children are protected from Polio.

The Provincial Department of Health would like to urge parents, caregivers, guardians and general public to bring their children who are under 5 years of age for immunization at hospitals, nearest clinics, mobile points and immunization points during the campaign.

Members of the Public and Private Health system are urged to bring any cases of sudden (acute), floppy (flaccid) paralysis in any person to the attention of the Provincial Health Department for investigation. Polio is a crippling disease, which is caused by a tiny germ called the poliovirus.

All cases of paralysis, which is sudden and floppy, must be investigated regardless of any other provisional diagnosis. This increase in surveillance is required in the battle against this crippling disease.

This polio immunization campaign is also a response to the Namibian Polio outbreak earlier this year. 96 people in Namibia were paralysed by Polio. The Namibian government has given 2 doses of Polio vaccine to the entire population plus one extra dose to the children under the age of five years.

For more information please contact Mr. Leon Mbangwa on 083 459 8695