

Cholera Outbreak in South Africa
National Outbreak Committee Situational Report (Sitrep 17)
as of 10:00 pm 19th December 2008

Contributors:

- Provincial Departments of Health
- National Department of Health
- National Institute for Communicable Diseases
- International Organizations & NGOs
- World Health Organisation

Areas: Limpopo, Gauteng, Mpumalanga, Kwa-Zulu Natal, Eastern Cape, Western Cape, Northwest, Free State and Northern Cape Provinces

1. HIGHLIGHTS

1.1. Limpopo Province:

1.1.1. Health Cluster met 17th Dec. to review progress made in implementing the cluster action plan. Key milestones in implementing the plan include: the establishment of Madimbo CTC; mobile teams for active case finding in Musina sub-district increased from two to four; toilets at the show grounds increased from six to 14; MSF installed hand washing facilities next to the latrines at the show grounds; and cooked food being provided to persons at the show grounds, feeding now – for seven days in a week and South African Red Cross Society SARCS is planning to start serving them breakfast.

1.1.2. New cases continue to be reported in Capricon (32) and Vhembe (20) in 24 hours (ending mid-day 19th Dec.). Using the experience from Musina and Madimbo, isolation facilities, and surveillance systems have been set up and health promotion campaigns initiated.

1.1.3. Ten percent of the cases in Musina and Madimbo are under fives while 63% are males.

1.1.4. From 4 to 18 December 2008 no cholera-related deaths have been reported. This has lowered the Case Fatality Rate in Musina and Madimbo to 0.91% and in Limpopo Province to 0.77%.

1.2. Gauteng Province: One (1) suspected case on 19th Dec in the COJ area, Charlotte Maxeke Hospital. In general, health staffs are facing difficulties in tracing patients to community level for the implementation of community level interventions. The main gap is lack of precision on patients' residential address

1.3. North West Province: No new cases. Action is focused on creating awareness in the Bretts, where the only case was identified and along the border with Botswana and Namibia

2. EPIDEMIOLOGICAL DATA:

Date: 18th December 2008.

	Limpopo	Gauteng	Mpumalanga	Kwa Zulu Natal	North west	East cape	Northern Cape	Western Cape	Free State	Total	Comments/ CFR
Cumulative number of cases	1045	76	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	1130	
Cumulative number of deaths	8	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	12	1.06%
Cumulative number lab confirmed	50	21	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	80	
Patients in the wards	7	1	pending	Pending	0	0	0	0	0	8	
New cases of the day	52	1	pending	0	0	0	0	0		53	
Discharged today	45	0	pending	0	0	0				45	
Cumulative total < 5 years	65	1	pending	pending	pending	pending				66	

3. DATA ANALYSIS (pending receipt of data)

4. GENERAL SITUATION

One case confirmed in Welkom, Free State – 18 Dec 2008, bringing the number of affected provinces to 9.

5. ANALYSIS & HEALTH CONSEQUENCES:

A Major Health issues

- Initially cases were associated with arrivals from Zimbabwe. Currently there is transmission due to arrivals and local (in country) transmission

B Action to be taken:

- Intensify public awareness country-wide
- Training/sensitization/re-orientation of Health Workers in infection control
- Need to detect cases early and prevent further spread of local transmission
- Enforce Municipal by-laws on food hygiene safety.
- Provide safe water, be vigilant on community water system breakdowns
- Provinces should send daily sit-rep to National level

6. ACTIONS TAKEN:

6.1. Department of Health Activities :

- To counter the contradicting messages, it is advised that all messages will originate centrally from the National Department of Health and the Provincial/District Health Promotion Committees will be responsible for drawing up a schedule of visits to ensure that all high risk areas are covered and to avoid duplication

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6.2. Activities of other Departments

- Declaration of Disaster in Musina and activation of the Disaster management committee. Contingency plan being finalized.

7. Support from Partners & Ongoing programs

- Three doctors from Red Cross now available for three days to support work in Musina.

8. COMMENTS

- Partners should link up with the Department of Health to facilitate coordination of support to the Provinces.
- Next meeting of the National Inter-Departmental and Partners' will be held on Monday 22, Dec at 14.00 hrs – Hallmark Building.

NB: Inputs from partners to be reflected in the sitrep on daily basis should be sent through Provincial outbreak response teams or through the National Coordinating team by e-mail: [mugerc@health.gov.za; Tel 0763932438] and [harryopata@yahoo.com Tel: 0798848339]

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