



health

Department of
Health
FREE STATE PROVINCE

MEDIA STATEMENTS 2010

NOVEMBER 2010

PHARMACISTS ASSISTANTS CERTIFICATES CEREMONY

9 November 2010

What: Pharmacists assistants certificates ceremony

When: Friday, 12 November 2010, 11h00

Where: Floreat Hall, Civil Centre Building (Glass Palace), Bloemfontein

Who: Head of Department, Dr Siphon Kabane will deliver the keynote address.

Why: This is one of the resolutions taken during the Health Summit held in 2009 where the department promised to transform the academic platform to support Primary Healthcare and to improve training of healthcare professionals such as doctors, nurses and allied health workers including the pharmacist assistants. A total of 75 pharmacist assistants will receive their certificates.

How: Draft Programme

Programme director: Ms Palesa Santho (Deputy Manager: Pharmaceutical Services)

Welcome	Ms SRO Khokho Executive Manager: Strategic Health Programs and Medical Support
Musical item	Medical Depot Choir
Address on behalf of the Pharmacists Assistants	Mr T Josane Phekolong clinic, Reddersburg
Address on behalf the South African Pharmacy Council	Ms H Masiza Manager: Pharmacy Education, SA pharmacy Council
Address on behalf of S Buys TDA Academy	Mr S Möller Executive Director : New S Buys Group
Keynote address	Dr S Kabane Head of Department:Health
Presentation of certificates	Dr S Kabane Head of Department: FS Department of Health
Prestige Awards	Mr S Parker Adcock Ingram
Pharmacy Oath	By all graduates
Vote of thanks	Mr SM Zuma Senior Manager: Clinical Quality and Compliance

Issued by: Free State Provincial Government
9 Nov 2010

JUNE 2010

MEASLES CAMPAIGN MOP-UP

15 June 2010

The Department of Health had a mass polio and Measles campaign the past two months. South Africa had more cases of measles in the years 2009 to 2010 than the years before that. In the Free State it is still a problem and a number of people have been admitted in the hospitals and seen at the clinics. If not controlled we may even see more cases of measles.

Measles is an infectious disease and it can be a serious. It can cause blindness, hearing problems, brain damage, pneumonia and even death. If a person received two doses of measles vaccine it helps to protect the body against the infection. There is still a very small possibility that a person can still get measles but in those cases they are not so sick.

South Africa was declared polio free by the World Health Organization. Our challenge is to stay polio free. Polio is a crippling disease. It is also infections. It mostly affects children under 15 years. As we are preparing for the soccer we must remember that in 2009 there were 19 countries in Africa where there were polio cases. These countries are coming to our soccer.

We are inviting all the children under five years that did not receive measles vaccine, polio and Vitamin A drops during the campaigns to go to their nearest clinic. We want to urge the parents as this is very important not to let their children be unprotected. They can get sick with measles or even polio. They can also infect other people, their family at home or the children at the crèche where they stay during the day.

Plan for the mobile stopping points in Bloemfontein

Measles, polio and Vitamin A will be given to children under five years that did not receive it during the April and May campaigns

Monday, 14 June: Kaylitsa, Ntate Maduna's place
Tuesday, 15 June: Phase 4 and 5, Mkhukhu Church
Thursday, 17 June: Phase 7, Ntate Sefuthi
Friday, 18 June: Phase 6, at Taxi office
Monday, 21 June: Phase 9 and 10, next to Regonne Primary School

Parents in other regions should take their children under five years to their nearest clinic if they have not received their measles and polio vaccine during the April and May campaigns.

Is the vaccine safe?

Yes, both measles and polio vaccine have been used in South Africa for more than 15 years. A few people may get a slight fever or rash seven to ten days after the measles injection is given. Serious side effects from the vaccines are very rare – a lot more rare than the serious side effects of the disease itself.

Parents who have any concerns regarding measles vaccine should consult their nearest clinic or family practitioner.

Enquiries:
Elke de Witt
Cell: 083 561 6517

MAY 2010

MEDIA INVITATION: OPENING OF RESOURCE CENTRE AT PELONOMI REGIONAL HOSPITAL

26 May 2010

You are cordially invited to the official opening of the resource centre at Pelonomi Regional Hospital

When: 28 May 2010, 10h00 to 12h00

Where: Formal proceedings: Block I, Second Floor, iCAM Hall

* Cutting of ribbon: Special Block K, 1st Floor, Pelonomi Hospital

Who: The Irish Aid Program contributed funds for the establishment of the resource centre for HIV and AIDS and for the registration with an up to date information system based in America for a three year period.

What: The resource centre serves:

* Health Professionals involved in Comprehensive Care Management and treatment (CCMT) programme

* As a study area and library information service to all students of the Department of Health who are doing courses in HIV and AIDS

* The community at large with HIV and AIDS and their families.

Why and How:

Draft program

* Opening and welcome: Ms SRO Khokho, Executive Manager, Strategic Health Programs and Medical Support Branch

* Introduction of guests: Ms ZA Ngele, Senior Manager, Human Resource Development

* Purpose of the day: Dr Dewald Steyn, Principle Specialist, Communicable Diseases Botshabelo CHC Complex System Video highlighting developments of project

* Speech: Irish Ambassador, Ambassador C Wrafter

* Remarks by MEC for Health Ms MG Qabathe, Acting MEC for Health

* Cutting of the ribbon: MEC for Health and Ambassador of Ireland

* Vote of thanks: Ms MCL Mabitle, General Manager, Human Resources Development.

Issued by: Department of Health, Free State Provincial Government

APRIL 2010

HIV COUNSELLING AND TESTING KICK OFF FOR FREE STATE LEADERS

28 April 2010

The MEC for Health, Ms ES Mabe, cordially invites you to the HIV Counselling and Testing campaign "kick off" for Free State leaders

Details are as follows:

Date: Wednesday, 28 April 2010

Time: 10h00

Venue: Louis Botha hall, Lebohang building

Theme: "I am responsible, we are responsible, Free State is responsible,"

How and why?

The draft programme includes:

- * Opening and welcome
- * Purpose (an explanation of the broad objectives of the campaign and the rationale behind having this session for MECs, heads of departments, local government, media, etc)
- * Questions and answers
- * Demonstration or role play of a typical counselling and testing incident
- * Group counselling session (similar to what will be done at the provincial HIV counselling and testing launch on 30 April in Kroonstad, to encourage people to be counselled and tested)
- * Testing opportunity (confidentially with counsellor and tester in testing tent units on lawn in front of Lebohang building)
- * Closure

RSVP only via e-mail or fax on or before Monday, 26 April 2010 at 14h00 with:

Gela van Heerden

Fax: 051 408 1055

E-mail: vheerdenep@fshealth.gov.za

Enquiries:

Gela Van Heerden

Tel: 051 408 1278

Fax: 051 408 1055

Cell: 082 381 9483

E-mail: vheerdenep@fshealth.gov.za

FREE STATE COMMEMORATES TB DAY IN HEILBRON

14 April 2010

The Free State Provincial Government led by Premier Magashule and Health MEC Sisi Mabe will commemorate Tuberculosis (TB) Day in Heilbron on Saturday, 19 April 2010. TB Day is commemorated annually to raise awareness about the disease and available treatment for the affected.

The Free State Department of Health will on that day launch "Motjha O Reng Campaign" targeting the youth and learners. The campaign aims to empower the Free State youth with the knowledge and skills to prevent the spread of TB infections at their schools and within their communities.

Currently the Free State Province has a cure rate of 71,0 percent and defaulter rate of 4,7 percent. To ensure that the defaulter rate is reduced, the Department of Health has taken the mandate of the National TB Control Program to absorb the project and expand the Defaulter Tracer Project to all the local areas.

To contain the spread of MDR, construction of MDR-TB unit is currently under construction at Kopano Complex in Welkom and is expected to be functional by September 2010.

Your media organisation is invited to cover this event as follows:

Date: 17 April 2010

Venue: Heilbron, Phiritona Open Soccer Field

Time: 10h00

NB: The HTC campaign has been postponed till further notice.

For more information contact:
Lorato Gomolemo
Cell: 083 301 7904

Jabu Mbalula
Cell: 082 461 3112

Issued by: Office of the Premier, Free State Provincial Government
14 April 2010

LAUNCH OF MASS HIV COUNSELLING AND TESTING CAMPAIGN

9 April 2010

The Free State provincial government led by Premier ES Magashule and MEC for Health Sisi Mabe will lead the provincial mass HIV counselling and testing (HCT) campaign to be launched next week on 19 April 2010 in Kroonstad.

The launch of this mass campaign will be preceded by the commemoration of the Tuberculosis (TB) Day on 17 April 2010 in Heilbron.

These activities are scheduled to take place as follows:

Event: TB Day commemoration
Date: 17 April 2010
Place: Heilbron
Venue: Phiritona open soccer field
Time: 10h00

Event: HIV counselling and testing mass campaign
Date: 19 April 2010
Place: Kroonstad
Venue: Flavious Mareka College
Time: 08h00

More information on these events will be released soon.

Enquiries:
Jabu Mbalula
Cell: 082 461 3112

Lorato Gomolemo
Cell: 083 301 7094

Lerato Jabane
Cell: 071 686 0377

MARCH 2010

FACT SHEET ON RIFT VALLEY FEVER

11 March 2010

1. Introduction

An outbreak of Rift Valley fever (RVF) has been confirmed in Lejweleputswa and other districts in the Free State province. Rift Valley fever is a viral zoonosis that primarily affects animals, but it also has the capacity to infect humans. It causes a mild flu-like condition in the majority of humans, but can also cause a severe disease. Rift Valley fever is more severe in animals, including livestock and game animals and can result in abortion and mortality.

2. Who is at risk?

Any person with recent close contact with animals in or from suspected Rift Valley fever areas in Free State province or any affected area presenting with:

- * Flu-like illness (which may include fever, muscle and joint pain and headache)
- * Fever and features of haemorrhage and blurred vision

3. Causative agent

Rift Valley fever is caused by a virus which is a member of the phlebovirus genus.

4. Signs and Symptoms

- * flu-like symptoms
- * headache
- * muscle or joint pains
- * neck stiffness
- * sensitivity to light
- * vomiting

5. Transmission to humans

- Contact with the blood or organs of infected animals
- Through the handling of animal tissues during slaughtering or butchering, assisting with animal births, conducting veterinary procedures, or from disposals of carcasses or foetuses.
- Occupational groups such as herders, farmers, slaughterhouse workers and veterinarians are at higher risk of infection.
- Infects humans via a wound from an infected knife, or through contact with broken skin, or through inhalation of aerosol procedure during the slaughter of infected animals.

No human to human transmission has been documented to date.

6. Prevention and Control of Rift Valley fever

Rift Valley fever can be prevented by observing the following measures:

- * Avoid contact with infected animals, particularly body fluids
- * Do not slaughter sick or dying domestic animals suspected of being infected with Rift Valley fever for consumption purposes
- * Wear appropriate protective clothing (for example: gloves, masks) when handling sick or suspected animals or any part thereof.
- * Avoid all animals' products (blood, meat and raw milk) from unsafe animals.
- * Boil raw milk before use
- * All animal's products from the outbreak area should be cooked thoroughly
- * Avoid movement of animals from one area to another
- * Identify and destroy mosquito breeding places and protect yourself from mosquito bites (for example: wear long sleeved clothing at night, use mosquito repellents and avoid evening outdoor activities)
- * Allow all appropriate animals to be vaccinated against Rift Valley fever.
- * All dead animals should be safely disposed under the supervision of an environmental health

practitioner

* Please visit the nearest health facility if one or more of the following symptoms is experienced:

flu-like fever
headache
muscle or joint pains
neck stiffness
sensitivity to light and
vomiting

For more information please visit the nearest health facility or call the following number: 0800 53 55 54.

FEBRUARY 2010

MOBILE HEALTH CARE SERVICE UNITS TO INTENSIFY SEXUAL HEALTH IN FREE STATE COMMUNITIES

15 February 2010

With respect to improving health outcomes, the national Department of Health with the Free State Provincial Health department will drive a service delivery orientated campaign in identified poor communities in Free State, from 15 to 19 February 2010.

The week long campaign focusing on Free State province is in line with strengthening the capacity of health systems and mainly improving sexual and reproductive health in the province.

Between the 15 and 18 February, the two departments will stage special health care services coupled with health care education in areas such as Welkom, Bloemfontein and Xhariep Districts. Tertiary institutions and technical colleges within Bloemfontein will also be visited. The overall campaign will be done through mobile health care units with health care workers offering health care services mainly relating to sexual and reproductive health.

The campaign will then culminate with a massive community interaction activity scheduled in Smithfield, outside Bloemfontein, on 19 February 2010. The community activity will be led by the Free State MEC for Health, Ms SE Mabe.

The sexual and reproductive health campaign, annually staged during February month, commemorates World Cancer Day, Sexual Transmitted Infections (STI); Condom Week; Pregnancy Education Week and Contraceptives Day.

The campaign strives to contribute towards achieving health related Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) relating to the projected 50 percent reduction of child, maternal, female and HIV and AIDS mortality rate by year 2011.

The media is therefore invited to be part of the main campaign activity to be held as follows:

Event Name: Sexual and reproductive health campaign
Date: 19 February 2010
Venue: Thembalethu (Smithfield) Clinic (160 km outside Bloemfontein)
Time: 10h00 to 16h00

For more information, kindly contact:
Elke de Witt
Cell: 083 561 6517

Vukani Mnyandu
Tel: 012 312 0486
Cell: 083 923 0261
