



health

Department:
Health
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Private Bag X828, PRETORIA, 0001 Civitas Building, c/o Struben and Thabo Sehume Streets
Tel (012) 395 8000, Fax (012) 395 8918

EXPANDED PROGRAMME ON IMMUNISATION COVERAGE SURVEY

Dear Sir/Madam,

Immunisation remains one of the most cost effective preventive health interventions presently known. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that globally, immunisation prevents 2 to 3 million deaths each year.

One of the main objectives of the Expanded Programme on Immunisation (EPI) is to ensure that 90% of children under 5 years are fully immunized at 1 year. This achievement can only be monitored through the reliable system. Immunisation in South Africa is monitored through the District Health Information System (DHIS)

South Africa has relied on administrative data for over a decade. The World Health Organization's recommends that EPI Coverage survey should be conducted regularly to validate administrative data.

However, relying on administrative data only can create a false sense of comfort. According to the National Department of Health's 2016/17 report (DHIS data) measles coverage 2nd dose for year 2016/17 was 93.6% against the United Children's Fund (UNICEF) and WHO joint report on immunisation 2017, and the South African Demographic Health Survey (SADHS,2016) coverage of 66% and 59.2% respectively for 2016.

Therefore, the Survey using WHO's approved methodology aims to amongst other things, obtain estimates on vaccination coverage, measure dropout rates and timelessness of vaccines and use this opportunity to explore and interrogate reasons for under immunisations in communities.

It is against this background that the Department of Health with support from partners and through Wits Health Consortium as a service provider will conduct immunisation coverage in 2019. Data collection will commence on the 11 March and end in April 2019 targeting children between 24 to 35 months in all the districts.

Fieldworkers will visit, **1,102 400** households to get a sample size of **55 120** caregivers/parents to be interviewed.

To be able to get access to almost all eligible households in the 52 health districts, social mobilisation and community engagement activities will be intensified.

The NDOH is requesting your assistance in welcoming and assisting social mobilization teams and fieldworkers when they visit your area to raise awareness about the survey and collect data.

Your support is highly appreciated

Kind regards


DR YOGAN PILLAY
DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: CD&NCD, PREVENTION, TREATMENT AND REHAB

DATE:

26/2/19