

MEDIA RELEASE

PSA alarmed by surging measles cases in Gert Sibande and Nkangala Districts, Mpumalanga

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EMBARGO

None

ENQUIRIES

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) calls for urgent and decisive intervention by the Mpumalanga Department of Health, as laboratory-confirmed measles cases continue to climb across the Province.

According to the latest surveillance data from the National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD) for January 2026, Mpumalanga has recorded 20 new cases in the first two weeks of the year. Of particular concern are the active outbreaks centered in the Gert Sibande and Nkangala District Municipalities, where the spread of this highly contagious virus threatens to overwhelm an already strained healthcare system.

The PSA is troubled by the demographic shift in this outbreak, with approximately 30% of laboratory-confirmed cases now being detected in persons aged 15 and older. This trend places healthcare workers, social workers, and administrative staff at a significantly higher risk of occupational exposure. This health threat is further compounded by the ongoing systemic challenges in the Mpumalanga Department of Health, including what the PSA has previously identified as maladministration and the irregular reassignment of senior management. The Union asserts that a province battling a viral outbreak cannot afford the instability currently plaguing its health leadership.

The PSA therefore demands that the Mpumalanga Provincial Government immediately prioritises a localised mass-vaccination "catch-up" drive, specifically targeting the Gert Sibande and Nkangala Districts. The Union also calls for the immediate provision of adequate personal protective equipment for all frontline public servants and the filling of critical clinical vacancies to manage the increased patient load.

The PSA will not sit idly by whilst the lives of public servants and the citizens of Mpumalanga are jeopardised by a combination of viral threats and administrative inertia. The PSA is ready to escalate these concerns to national level should the provincial response continue to falter.

END