

MEDIA RELEASE

PSA demands strengthened health surveillance in North West's Dr Kenneth Kaunda and Ngaka Modiri Molema Districts

DATE

02 February 2026

EMBARGO

None

ENQUIRIES

Zhulfa Graaff
082 880 8976

The Public Servants Association (PSA) is alarmed by the recent surge in measles cases across North West, specific outbreaks reported in the Dr Kenneth Kaunda and Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipalities.

The National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD) has confirmed that the national count has reached 139 cases. The PSA is particularly worried about the safety of public servants working in high-density environments such as schools and clinics. Measles is a highly contagious disease that spreads rapidly through respiratory droplets. The current rise in cases demands an urgent and decisive response from the Provincial Government to protect workers and members of the public.

The PSA notes with concern that the first half of 2025 already saw hundreds of cases of measles and rubella nationwide. The current resurgence highlights gaps in vaccination coverage. The PSA calls on the North West Department of Health to launch a comprehensive immunization campaign, targeting under-vaccinated areas to stem the tide of infections. It must be ensured that all frontline workers have access to the necessary medical supplies and information to manage the outbreak, as the rise in cases amongst persons aged 15 to 49 indicates that the workforce is increasingly at risk.

All North West residents are urged to cooperate with health officials and ensure that children receive the necessary vaccinations at the correct intervals. Symptoms such as red eyes, fever, and a red rash should not be ignored. The PSA will continue to advocate for the rights and safety of public servants in North West, ensuring that no worker is forced to operate in a hazardous environment without the protection required to combat this viral threat.

END