



# GAUTENG PROVINCE

HEALTH  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

## MEDIA STATEMENT

**SUNDAY, 21 MAY 2023**

### **GAUTENG HEALTH CONFIRMS CHOLERA OUTBREAK IN THE HAMMASKRAAL AREA**

The Gauteng Department of Health (GDoH) would like to inform the public of a confirmed Cholera outbreak in Hammanskraal, City of Tshwane.

This comes after lab results of stool specimen of 19 people who presented at Jubilee District Hospital with symptoms of diarrhoea, stomach cramps and nausea confirmed that it is Cholera.

Since Monday, 15 May 2023 to date, 95 people from Kanana, Suurman, Majaneng, Green Field, Carousel View, Lephengville and Sekampaneng have been seen at the hospital with similar symptoms. Currently, there are 37 people admitted at the hospital with Cholera symptoms and unfortunately, 10 people have demised. The 10 people that died include a 3-year-old and 9 adults.

Gauteng MEC for Health and Wellness, Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko, today visited the hospital together with the City of Tshwane MMC for Health, Rina Marx to be updated on the situation and immediately intervene in terms of increasing response capacity at Jubilee Hospital.

The MEC said that the Department has made available two additional wards to accommodate patients who could not be immediately admitted on arrival at Jubilee Hospital.

“We have also mobilised additional resources which include medical and nursing staff from surrounding hospitals and local clinics to improve capacity for the growing need for medical care. Furthermore, additional linen has been delivered from the provincial laundry to activate the extra beds,” said MEC Nkomo-Ralehoko.

The provincial, district and municipality outbreak response teams continue to do work advocacy work to raise awareness among communities. Already, the teams have conducted engaged with churches, local training institutions and various media platforms, as well as loud hailing in the affected areas.

Since arriving at Jubilee Hospital, the MEC and MMC have engaged with concerned political parties, councillors and community leaders in the area who have committed to assist with community education.

The MEC has urged the public to take extra precautionary measures and maintain proper hand-hygiene.

“We would like to reiterate and urge the public to avoid known or suspected contaminated food, water and surfaces and wash hands thoroughly with soap before handling food or after using the bathroom to prevent possible infection.

“It is also important that people never drink water from unsafe sources such as rivers, dams, streams, unless boiled or disinfected,” emphasised the MEC.

In addition, the City of Tshwane has issued a notice urging communities of Hammanskraal not to drink tap water and has supplied water tankers to the hospital and surrounding communities.

The Department has also engaged with the National departments of Water and Sanitation and Human Settlements to add additional capacity to support the municipality with water infrastructure and related issues.

The public is advised to report to their nearest health facilities when they present with symptoms such as diarrhoea, nausea, vomiting, stomach cramps and dehydration symptoms, so they can receive treatment.

MMC Marx said the City will mobilise additional resources in the form of social workers to provide counselling and social relief for the affected families.

The public is further urged to be extra vigilant in the coming days while all spheres of government work within multiple stakeholders to curb the spread of the Cholera outbreak.

As at Sunday, 21 May 2023, the Gauteng province has 19 new confirmed cases of Cholera from Hammanskraal with 10 deaths.

Ends/

Issued by the Gauteng Department of Health

For more information please contact:

Motalatale Modiba, Head of Communication: 064 803 0808 or <a href="mailto:healthmediaenquiries@gauteng.gov.za">healthmediaenquiries@gauteng.gov.za</a>	Tshepo Shawa, Spokesperson for the MEC for Health: 072 222 6333 or <a href="mailto:Tshepo.Shawa@gauteng.gov.za">Tshepo.Shawa@gauteng.gov.za</a>
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