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## 1 VACCINE-PREVENTABLE DISEASES

### Measles

#### Update on measles outbreak

As at 12 February 2015, there have been only three laboratory-confirmed measles cases with onset of illness in 2015. These cases were all from ZF Mgqawu District in Northern Cape Province. This follows 63 laboratory-confirmed measles cases reported in 2014 from Northern Cape and Gauteng provinces.

Laboratory-confirmed measles cases have not been reported from other provinces for 2015 to date. Nevertheless, a high index of suspicion should be maintained for new cases countrywide.

Any suspected measles case should have a serum sample collected and sent to the NICD for confirmatory testing, together with a completed

case investigation form (available from NICD website under Measles FAQs: [www.nicd.ac.za/assets/files/Measles%20Rubella%20case%20investigation%20form%20Mar%202014.pdf](http://www.nicd.ac.za/assets/files/Measles%20Rubella%20case%20investigation%20form%20Mar%202014.pdf)).

The measles vaccine history should be indicated on the case investigation form. Measles vaccines are routinely given as two doses, at 9 months and 18 months of age. Measles vaccines are safe and highly effective at preventing measles. If a dose has been missed, **it is never too late to catch up measles vaccination.**

**Source:** Centre for Vaccines and Immunology, and Division for Public Health, Surveillance and Response, NICD-NHLS; Department of Health - EPI and Communicable Diseases Directorates (National, Northern Cape Province and ZF Mgqawu District); World Health Organization