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Update on rotavirus disease

Data from the rotavirus surveillance programme indicate that the 2013 rotavirus season is continuing. There have been no new reports of unusually high numbers of diarrhoeal disease or rotavirus cases to the NICD-NHLS. The upsurge in diarrhoeal disease with predominance of rotavirus reported in Siyanda District (Northern Cape Province), eThekweni Metropolitan (KwaZulu-Natal Province) and subsequently in other KwaZulu-Natal

Province districts is still under investigation (see July 2013 Communicable Diseases Communiqué). Preliminary findings suggest that the phenomenon may be multifactorial, including the impact of inherently lower rotavirus vaccine efficacy in low- and middle-income settings as well as suboptimal vaccine coverage.

Source: Division of Public Health Surveillance and Response and Centre for Enteric Diseases, NICD-NHLS