



**MEDIA STATEMENT
TO: ALL MEDIA HOUSES
DATE: 18 APRIL 2019**

MEC FOR HEALTH IN MPUMALANGA MS SASEKANI MANZINI ALERT COMMUNITY MEMBERS AND EASTER HOLIDAY TRAVELLERS ABOUT COMMUNICABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The MEC for Health in Mpumalanga. Ms Sasekani Manzini would like to urge all community members travelling in and out the province and outside the country to test for any communicable infectious diseases such as cholera, typhoid fever and shigella) malaria and meningococcal meningitis before traveling.

The MEC would like to advise community members who will be travelling to the countries and province currently affected by cyclone Idai, where there is high risk of malaria and other infectious diseases to be on high alert.

“Our neighbouring Countries (Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe) have been affected by tropical cyclone **Idai** in March 2019, as a result some of the Countries have already experienced outbreaks ranging from cholera, typhoid fever and also increase of malaria cases. As we are celebrating the Easter Holidays, most people are travelling to high risk areas with infectious diseases. The risk of water borne diseases (acute watery diarrhoea (cholera, typhoid fever and shigella) malaria and meningococcal meningitis are among the diseases that have potential risk to spread in the province and through our cross borders to the province”. Said Manzini.

Symptoms of malaria can develop as quickly as within seven days after being bitten by an infected mosquito. If you visit your clinic or health facility, it is important to mention that you recently travelled to a malaria risk area. After visiting a malaria area; report any flu-like symptoms to your nearest clinic or health facility for malaria test.

Signs and symptoms of malaria

Fever,

Headache

Body shaking/shivering/sweating

Body pains

Loss of appetite, nausea and vomiting

The main signs and symptoms of the diarrhoea are as follows:

- Diarrhoea
- Nausea and vomiting
- Abdominal cramps (stomach cramps)

Prevention of diarrhoea

- Boil water if the source of water is unknown for safe use
- Hand washing with soap after visiting toilet and before eating; it is essential to reduce disease risk.
- Good food handling techniques (Avoid eating raw or uncooked meat or seafood)
- Wash vegetable and fruits before eating

Always visit your local health facility if you experiencing the following signs and symptoms of diarrhoea

“PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE”

Issued by the Communication Directorate. For any inquiries please contact Mr. Dumisani Malamule on 013 766 3802 or 076 317 6360/081 790 6307.

