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Specialised Education Minute: 0001/2023

To: Deputy Directors-General, Chief Directors, Directors (Head Office and district offices), Heads: Management and Governance, Heads: Curriculum Support, Heads: Learner Support, Circuit Managers, Principals of public schools and Chairpersons of governing bodies

Subject: Measles vaccination campaign and other health services

1. Background

- 1.1 The recent measles outbreaks across the globe, including in five provinces in South Africa, are indicative of gaps in vaccination.
- 1.2 The threat to children's health and cognitive development has led to the need to launch a national measles vaccination campaign.
- 1.3 The Western Cape Department of Health's measles campaign will run concurrently with the annual human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination campaign for Grade 5 girls in schools or will be integrated with the HPV campaign. These campaigns are planned for February to 31 March 2023.
- 1.4 It is further proposed that where capacity allows, other key services such as growth monitoring, provision of vitamin A, deworming, etc. will be integrated where parental consent is obtained.

2. Target group

- 2.1 All children from six months to 15 years, whether they are in school or not, and regardless of their measles vaccination status and previous measles doses received, are eligible for the **measles vaccination**.
- 2.2 Only Grade 5 girls in schools, aged nine years and older, will receive the **HPV vaccination**.

2.3 **Diftavax Td** will be administered to Grade 5 boys and girls, aged nine years and older, in schools.

2.4 For **Vitamin A**, the target is all children up to 59 months who missed their routine doses (catch-up).

3. Dates for campaigns

3.1 The measles vaccinations will take place in February and March 2023.

3.2 The National School Deworming Programme for Grades R–7 in Quintile 1–3 schools will take place in May, June and July 2023.

3.3 The first dose of the HPV vaccine will be administered in February and March 2023.

3.4 The second dose of the HPV vaccine will be administered in September and October 2023. The Diftavax Td vaccination for Grade 5 boys and girls in schools will take place at the same time.

3.5 During School Health Week from 16–29 October 2023, comprehensive onsite health services will be offered to learners.

4. Consent forms will be distributed by the Department of Health and no learner will receive any vaccination without the necessary parental consent.

5. Kindly bring the contents of this minute to the attention of all concerned.

SIGNED: AJE MEYER

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: INSTITUTION DEVELOPMENT AND COORDINATION

DATE: 2023-02-21