



Cluster: Health Information, Epidemiology, Evaluation & Research

Epidemiology-New sflash

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This is a weekly news review on national and international events of epidemiological importance.

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**SOUTH AFRICA - PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS**

**Warning as virus kills scores of dogs in Cape Town**

Scores of dogs are being put down daily because of a severe outbreak of *Canine parvovirus* in the Somerset West, Gordon's Bay and Strand area. Dog owners have been warned to keep their pets away from the area. Veterinary clinics reported that they were putting down large numbers of dogs, sometimes the entire litters of puppies that were infected with the parvovirus, while the Animal Welfare Society reported that it had euthanased 55 dogs in the past four weeks. A veterinarian from the Tygerberg Animal Hospital warned that the contagious virus could spread to dogs elsewhere in the city.

For more info:

[http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set\\_id=1&dick\\_id=125&art\\_id=vn20100120125422895C535676](http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&dick_id=125&art_id=vn20100120125422895C535676)

**INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

**Six percent of Sokoto residents are infected with HIV**

**Rwanda** — Six percent (6%) of the total population of Sokoto state is HIV infected, according to the recent research by the state's Agency for the Control of AIDS and Tuberculosis (SOSACAT). The major challenge to the current government is how to prevent the remaining 94 per cent of its population from being infected and to provide treatment, care and support to those infected. It has been reported that the percentage of the infected people was far below that of 2001 but above that of 2003 which were placed at 8.5 % and 3.2 % respectively. It was against this background that the state

and the local governments evolved measures to curtail the menace in their respective areas.

For more info: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201001190083.html>

**There is no Swine Flu vaccine in Lagos**

**Nigeria** — About a fortnight after Pandemic A (H1N1) swine flu killed a 38-year-old woman in Lagos and eight others subsequently tested positive, Lagos State Government reported that Nigeria currently has no vaccine in stock to treat the flu virus. The vaccine would be procured from abroad within a timeframe of four weeks in order to respond to the health crisis. It has been reported that the people that tested positive of Influenza

A/H1N1 have been placed on antiviral -Tamiflu, and surveillance activities have started, and are still on-going. More powered masspublic enlightenment activities are being intensified while print and electronic jingles and other enlightenment materials are being rolled out to alert the public on what to do if certain symptoms are noticed.

For more info: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201001200317.html>

### **Cancer burden continues to grow in Zimbabwe**

**Harare** — The burden of cancer continues to grow in Zimbabwe with at least 4 347 new cases recorded in 2008 alone, a senior Government official has reported. The highest number of cases (51 %) was recorded among women. According to a 2005 report by the Zimbabwe Cancer Registry, the top five leading cancers in African women are cervical (32 %), breast (11 %), *Kaposi's sarcoma* (10.9 %), eye (5.4 %) and non-hodgkin's lymphoma (3.6 %). In men, leading cancers are *Kaposi's sarcoma* accounting for (25.6 %), prostate cancer (11.6%), non-melanoma skin (9 %), non-hodgkin's lymphoma (5.8 %) and eye (4.9 %).

For more info: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201001200149.html>

### **Malaria vaccine clinical trials alliance may be extended**

**Maputo** — The Malaria Clinical Trials Alliance (MCTA), which was due to end in 2009, may be extended for a further period to allow consolidation of the results achieved over the past four years in 12 African countries where research centres are working on a vaccine against malaria. It has been reported that in Mozambique and eight other countries, the third phase of studies into a malaria vaccine is under way. Those studies began in May 2009, and have led to hopes that vaccine will be on the market in the next five to six years. Results from 2007 indicate that this candidate vaccine is 65 % effective in new born children.

For more info: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201001181477.html>

### **Measles claims 19 more children in Harare**

**Zimbabwe** — About 19 more children have died of measles in Makoni District in recent weeks, prompting members of apostolic religious group to go against their beliefs by accepting immunisation. This brings the death toll to 41 since November 2009. All children between the ages of nine months and 14 years must be immunised against measles. According to the World Health Organisation, there is currently 1 052 suspected measles cases across Zimbabwe of which 161 have been laboratory confirmed. Of the confirmed cases, 81 % were from nine months to 14 years. WHO said the majority of the cases were among children who had never been immunised before and whose parents belonged to apostolic church.

For more info: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201001210339.html>

### **PUBLIC HEALTH EVENTS**

- ❖ **World Leprosy Day, 31 January 2010**
- ❖ **World Cancer Day, 4 January 2010**