

Media Advisory

To: Editors & Health Journalists
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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONDUCT THE TB PREVALENCE SURVEY

In an effort to improve prevention and cure of TB epidemic in South Africa, the Department of Health in partnership with Human Sciences Research Council (HRSC), Medical Research Council (MRC), and National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD), will conduct the TB prevalence survey to strengthen TB control in South Africa and to establish the true burden of TB disease.

According to WHO (World Health Organisation), South Africa ranks among the 22 high burden countries and contribute to about 80 percent of the total global burden of all TB cases.

The Department of Health however, has recorded successes in TB control such as routine TB cases screening, launch of a massive TB screening campaign which has seen over 500,000 people screening as well as scaling up rapid diagnostic technology (Xpert MTB/RIF) for improved diagnosis of TB.

During the Launch of the first National TB Prevalence Survey in 2016, Deputy President, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa revealed that the country will continue to mobilize more resources to fight TB scourge by prioritising the detection and treatment of the disease.

The 2017 TB prevalence Survey will be held nationally with a representative sample of approximately 55,000 adults identified, sampled from 110 population clusters and will take about 24 months to complete.

The Ethekwini municipality in KwaZulu-Natal province will kick start the survey this month and the Department has planned various social mobilization activities intended for reaching out to the members of the community and encourage them to participate in the survey. Clearly identifiable fieldworkers will be deployed into selected areas to interview and collect data.

According to the Department of Health the nine provinces of South Africa have been divided into three namely the 'low' (Gauteng and Limpopo), 'medium' (KwaZulu-Natal, Mpumalanga and Free State) and 'high' (Northern Cape, Western Cape, North West and Eastern Cape) based on prior beliefs of estimates for TB prevalence of 178, 274 and 424 per 100,000 respectively,

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