

Measles elimination in South Africa - policy and implementation

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SUMMARY

With the advent of an effective and safe vaccine against measles, the control of measles has been astounding. In several countries the success of immunisation have led to the attempt to eliminate measles transmission entirely, through the use of vaccination strategies originally developed in the polio eradication programme. These strategies are to increase and maintain high routine coverage, to conduct periodic supplemental mass immunisation campaigns and case based, laboratory confirmed surveillance.

In South Africa, measles mass vaccination was added to the existing polio mass vaccination campaigns in 1996 and 1997, and the combined strategies were formulated for the South African context in this document.

This document is targeted at decision makers in the national and provincial Departments of Health, to enable a coordinated and effective South African measles elimination programme.

OPSOMMING

Sedert 'n effektiewe en veilige entstof gevind is teen masels, het die gebruik daarvan 'n dramatiese dalingseffek gehad op die voorkoms van die siekte. In verskeie lande het die sukses van immuniseringsprogramme daartoe aanleiding gegee dat die volledige uitwissing van masels nou verwesenlik kan word deur gebruik te maak van inentings strategieë wat oorspronklik gebruik is vir die polio uitwissingsprogram. Hierdie strategieë sluit in die handhawing en verbetering van 'n hoë roetine inentingsvlak, die gebruik van herhalende addisionele immuniseringsveldtogte en verder ook laboratorium bevestiging van elke masels geval.

Die masels veldtogte in Suid Afrika is gekoppel aan reeds beplande polio veldtogte in beide 1996 en 1997. Die gesamentlike strategieë word saamgevat in hierdie dokument.

Hierdie dokument is gemik op besluitnemers in beide die nasionale en provinsiale Departemente van Gesondheid om sodoende 'n gekoördineerde en ook effektiewe maselsuitwissingsprogram te kan loods.

KEYWORDS

measles elimination, South Africa, policy, implementation, strategies, mass immunisation campaigns, surveillance, routine immunization

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