



health

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Health
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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TO:

**PROVINCIAL AND DISTRICT EPI MANAGERS
HEADS OF PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICES
DISTRICT PRIMARY HEALTH CARE, MCWH, HAST AND OTHER MANAGERS
FACILITY MANAGERS OF MPOX VACCINATION SITES**

During the first phase of the mpox vaccine roll-out, provinces were advised to focus on vaccination of individuals at highest risk of contracting mpox namely Gay, Bisexual and Men who have Sex with Men (GBMSM) and transgender individuals with a recent history of multiple sexual partners and those participating in group sex.

Following consultation with the National Advisory Group on Immunisation, the following groups can be added to the target population for vaccination, especially in settings where uptake is low and/or vaccines are short-dated and likely to reach their expiry date if not offered more widely.

- GBMSM and transgender individuals who would like to be vaccinated
- Sex workers and other individuals who participate in high-risk sexual behaviours.
- Health care and laboratory workers who are at risk of exposure to individuals with mpox or specimens from individuals with mpox.
- At-risk travellers to countries in West and Central Africa.
- Consideration can also be given to offering vaccination to persons living with HIV.

It is noted that persons in some categories will not meet the criteria as outlined in the mpox vaccination screening tool. Under circumstances where short-dated vaccines are at high risk of being wasted, consideration should be given to suspending the use of the screening tool so as to facilitate offering of vaccination to additional individuals. However, informed consent must always be obtained.

Vaccination of contacts of persons with mpox should also continue. This includes vaccination of:

- Any sexual contacts, regardless of gender.
- Household contacts of mpox patients, including pregnant, lactating women, and children (under medical supervision)
- Health workers who were in contact with the patient

Please ensure that this information is communicated to all health care and other workers involved in the mpox vaccination roll-out.

Kind regards

**DR LJ BAMFORD
ACTING CHIEF DIRECTOR: MATERNAL, CHILD AND WOMEN'S HEALTH
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