

NEWS BULLETIN

Official Newsletter of the Gauteng Department of Health

3 February 2023



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Gauteng Health takes health services to TISH communities

As part of addressing barriers of access to health services, the Gauteng Department of Health (GDoH) is embarking on a campaign to take health services to the doorstep of communities.

The campaign is informed by the Gauteng Provincial Government's Township, Informal Settlement, Hostels (TISH) programme which aims to ensure that citizens in disadvantaged areas are not left out when it comes to access to services.

MEC for Health and Wellness, Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko says through this campaign, communities will receive health services closer to where they live. This will help to detect health conditions timeously and ensure that early treatment is administered, thus relieving the burden on the healthcare system.

"It is important to improve health outcomes among Gauteng residents. We have picked up that there are still many people who default on their treatment for various reasons. We will be reaching out even to those people to assist them to keep to their treatment programmes," points out MEC Nkomo-Ralehoko.

Communities will have access to a basket of services which includes HIV and TB testing, Vitamin A and deworming, immunisation, family planning, adherence support (chronic treatment) and oral health services, as well as pap smear and prostate-specific agent (PSA) to examine any signs of cervical or prostate cancer.

In addition, the department will educate communities about the importance of knowing their health status, healthy eating and

maintaining food gardens, participating in aerobic clubs and doing fun walks.

MEC Nkomo-Ralehoko kick-started the campaign in Saulsville Hostel and Greeneker informal settlement in Tshwane on Thursday, 02 February 2022 and will be followed by other areas across the five health districts in the province.

Jacob Ramayoko, a resident at Saulsville Hostel who undertook a comprehensive health assessment said that he was delighted about the service brought by the Department near their homes.

We still want to advise the public of our referral pathways which requires for patients to receive the right level of care at the appropriate facility. At the heart of this is the role of primary health care as hospitals offer a higher level of care after patients are transferred from clinics."

~MEC Nkomo-Ralehoko.

"We are truly grateful for the services that have been brought to us today. We were reminded that it is important for one to know their health status and take the treatment needed to live long. I would like to encourage everyone who has been neglecting their health to rise up and start living healthy," said Ramayoko.


TAKING HEALTH SERVICES TO COMMUNITIES






District	Venue	Date	Time
Ekurhuleni	Vusumuzi Hostel (Block I & J) Vusumuzi Informal Settlement	03 February 2023	10:00 – 14:00
West Rand	Bekkersdal Hostel & Bekkersdal Informal Settlement	06 February 2023	10:00 – 14:00
Sedibeng	Sebokeng Hostel & Boitekong Informal Settlement	08 February 2023	10:00 – 14:00
Johannesburg	Madala Hostel Princess Informal Settlement	10 February 2023	10:00 – 14:00



Full opening of Tambo Memorial Hospital brings much needed relief

Koketso Maraba

Sections of the Tambo Memorial Hospital which were damaged by the unfortunate and tragic Boksburg gas tanker explosion are now fully operational and accepting patients who had to seek care at nearby facilities.

This was announced by Gauteng MEC for Health and Wellness, Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko who went to oversee the reopening of the x-ray ward, accident and emergency unit and antenatal ward on Monday, 30 January 2022.

The MEC said that the diversion of all patient categories and departments is uplifted, following the testing and quality checks of the clinical machines and the subsequent lifting of the prohibition notice by the Department of Labour, thus allowing access to the affected sections.

"I am pleased to announce that all services have now been restored and the hospital will embark on a catch-up process to reschedule patients who would have missed their scheduled appointments for surgery and radiology services, said MEC Nkomo-Ralehoko.

The Tambo Memorial Hospital is now able to receive critical patients for general surgery, radiology, orthopaedics, ENT (Ear, Nose and Throat), ophthalmology, high risk and low risk maternity services, internal medicine and all trauma cases that require theatre operations and intensive care unit.

MEC Nkomo-Ralehoko continued to advise the public of referral pathways in the public healthcare system, which require patients to receive the right level of care at the appropriate facility.

"At the heart of this is the role of primary health care as hospitals offer a higher level of care after patients are transferred from clinics," said MEC Nkomo-Ralehoko.

All the staff members who were allocated to neighbouring facilities after the tragic explosion have also been recalled and the CEO of the hospital has started the recruitment process to fill the vacant posts to ensure that services continue to run efficiently and enhance the patient experience.

I am pleased to announce that all services have now been restored and the hospital will embark on a catch-up process to reschedule patients who would have missed their scheduled appointments for surgery and radiology services.
~ MEC Nkomo Ralehoko

In addition, the MEC announced that a committee to investigate the incident was appointed by the CEO of the hospital and was in the process of assisting families of the deceased and injured staff members to file for the social security compensation claim forms for UIF (Unemployment Insurance Fund) and COIDA (Compensation for Occupation Injuries and Diseases Act) with the Department of Labour.

Let us put the Public first, urges MEC Nkomo-Ralehoko

The MEC for Health and Wellness, Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko has called for improved working relations with Members of the Mayoral Committees (MMCs) responsible for health across Gauteng municipalities for the sake of better delivery of health care services to communities.

Nkomo-Ralehoko made the call during her recent meeting with MMCs. This comes after she expressed concerns with a number of newly built health facilities whose opening is due to municipal authorities not issuing compliance certificates or connection of bulk services.

The MEC said that process that the delays in handing over the facilities to communities has frustrated communities who desperately need the services closer to where they live, thus resulting in protests.

"We have completed a number of projects across the province that are ready to be utilised by communities. However, occupational and compliance certificates that need to be issued by local authorities delay the process.



"We need to improve our working relations for the benefit of the Gauteng residents. It is our responsibility as public representatives to ensure that our communities get access to state-of-the-art health infrastructure at expected timeframes," said the MEC.

MMCs who joined MEC Nkomo-Ralehoko include Cllr Ernest Tibane from Merafong, Cllr Gail Mphafudi from West Rand, Cllr Una Dickson from Rand West City, Cllr Makhala Lesaona from Emfuleni, Cllr Nkubi Mokoena from Sedibeng and Cllr Thulani Mashinini from Lesedi.

Currently, there are five state-of-the-art clinics and Community Healthcare Centres (CHCs) that are complete but still waiting for municipal occupational certificates for public usage. These include Mandisa Shiceka Clinic and Boikhutsong Clinic in Tshwane, Phillip Moyo CHC in Ekurhuleni and Finetown Clinic in Johannesburg. MEC Nkomo-Ralehoko said that immediate

intervention need to be implemented by the MMCs to ensure that the facilities are opened sooner.

MMC Tibane said the meeting with the MEC was necessary to resolve all the challenges relating to health infrastructure and services in municipalities, especially those that need the provincial government's support.

"The MEC has committed to being on the ground with us to resolve all the challenges we are currently facing in our respective health facilities. Working together we will find solutions to challenges that prevent the provision of quality services to the people.

"I hope that we will see more 24 hour CHCs and the capacitation of health facilities with nurses and doctors so that our communities get uninterrupted services at all times," said MMC Tibane.

Restore dignity of the nursing profession

Matlhatsi Dibakwane

If nurses are to bring back the dignity of the nursing profession, it is important that they remember the pledge they once took to practice their profession with conscience and dignity.

This is the call made recently when the Clinical Education and Training Unit hosted nurses at an Ethics Awareness Day at Dr George Mukhari Academic Hospital under the theme 'Le kae Letswalo?', which translates to 'Where is your conscience'.

Because nurses have a bad reputation of coming across as rude and uncaring to patients that they serve, the aim of the awareness programme was to remind nurses that patients should be their first consideration.

Nurses were also urged to revive their conscience, so the community can gradually start to trust and respect nursing as it still remains a noble profession.

The awareness programme brought together a mix of speakers with diverse backgrounds.



The speakers explored the challenges faced by nurses and how they can better follow steps that can avoid dilemmas and situations so they can act as moral agents in order to provide patients with safe and ethical care.

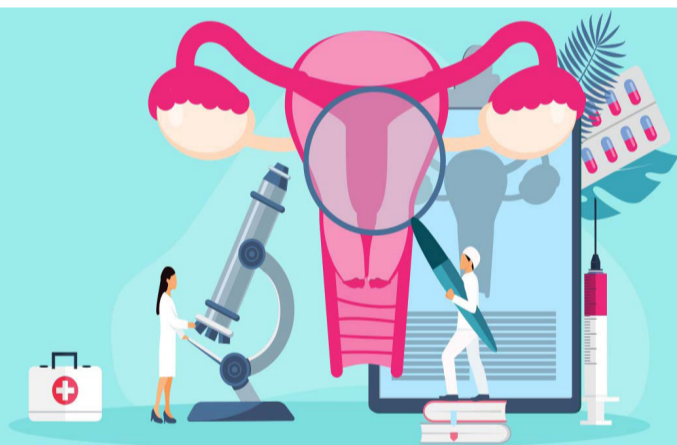
Deputy Director of Risk and Internal Control, Matt Willemse, defined ethics as good or right behavior and revolves around being good to yourself and others and the quality of interaction. He said ethics are intended to guide nurses in maintaining certain basic standards of behavior.

For nurses to turn things around, Willemse advised them to change their mindset and transform the workplace toxic culture by recognising the ethics' five finger rule test. Before reacting to any dilemma that might cost them their career, nurses should test if their actions are legal, will they read about their decision in the newspaper, is it in line with their personal, organisational or professional values, is it fair to all and if they can live with their decision.

"Organisations that identify and address pervasive mindsets at the outset are four times more likely to succeed in organisational change efforts than organisations that overlook this stage. The way you behave has an impact on other people. The pledges that you made were for your patients and the community at large," he said.

DENOSA's Head of Professional Matters, Fina Setshedi, warned nurses to be careful of how they treat and address patients and their families when they come to the hospital because their actions can land them in hot water.

"Nurses need the right balance of objectivity and emotional expression to show through their work. Treat patients as you would your family, never judge patients or their families because some know better than you. If somebody comes and asks you a simple question just give them an accurate answer. But if you don't know what to say ask another nurse to assist you. Because when you go out there you also need to be treated with respect," she said.



HPV Vaccination can assist in preventing Cervical Cancer

As we approach World Cancer Day, which is commemorated annually on 4 February, News Bulletin reporter, **Rudzani Matshili** took time to zoom into Cervical cancer and ways to prevent this deadly disease.

Cervical cancer can be prevented by vaccination against Human Papillomavirus (HPV) as well as regular age-appropriate cervical screening. Through the screening tests, the development of cervical cancer is prevented by assessing cervical cells for any abnormalities and ensuring early treatment where necessary.

This is according to Enrolled Nurse Assistant Clement Bambo from Dr George Mukhari Academic Hospital, who dispelled some misconceptions about it.

Bambo stressed the importance of intensifying awareness on cancer and strengthening actions towards improving access to screening, early detection, and treatment.

He urged parents to allow young girls to access the HPV vaccine as per the national health guidelines, which state that all female pupils from Grades 4 and 5 must get the jab, which is administered in two doses every six to 12 months.

"Cervical cancer begins when healthy cells acquire a genetic change (mutation) that causes them to turn into abnormal cells. Various

strains of the human papilloma virus, a sexually transmitted infection play a role in causing most cervical cancers. When exposed to it, a woman's immune system typically prevents the virus from doing harm. In a small group of women, the virus survives for years, contributing to the process that causes some cells on the surface of the cervix to become cancer cells.

"HPV vaccination helps prevent infection with the HPV types that cause most cervical cancers and again with screening tests for pap smear regularly according to the World Health Organization guideline," explained Bambo.

He shared some of the common symptoms, which he said women must seek help immediately if they experience. There are, vaginal bleeding after intercourse, between periods or after menopause. Watery, bloody vaginal discharge that may be heavy and have a foul smell. And Pelvic pain or pain during intercourse.

Furthermore, he explained that for women with a much weaker immune system, the cancer develops faster while it can take at least five years for some to know they have it.

"The cancer develops very slowly. It can take years or even decades for the abnormal changes in the cervix to become invasive cancer cells but can develop faster in people with weaker immune systems, but it will still likely take at least five years."

While it is often treatable, the treatment depends on the size and type of cervical cancer one has. "When cervical cancer is diagnosed at an early stage, the 5-year relative survival rate is 92%. When cervical cancer is diagnosed after it has spread to nearby tissues, organs, or regional lymph nodes, the 5-year relative survival rate is 59%.

"Most early-stage cervical cancers are treated with a radical hysterectomy operation, which involves removing the cervix, uterus, part of the vagina and nearby lymph nodes. A hysterectomy can cure early-stage cervical cancer and prevent recurrence. But removing the uterus makes it impossible to become pregnant," he concluded.

Cervical cancer can be prevented by vaccination against Human Papillomavirus (HPV) as well as regular age-appropriate cervical screening.

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Tackling Surgical Backlogs



In an effort to clear the current surgical backlogs at the province's hospitals, the Gauteng Department of Health has prioritised the fast-tracking of critical and advanced medical procedures.

Regular departmental theatre marathons, utilisation of cluster hospital theatres and collaborations, filling of critical vacant posts, minimising disruptions at facilities through contingency plans are among the measures being implemented to ensure that as many procedures as possible can take place.

Currently the province has just over 32 000 patients at all public hospitals who are on the waiting lists for various procedures majority of which are elective surgeries. The waiting period ranges from weeks and months for some procedures like caesarean sections, hernia repairs, cataract, knee replacements; a year or more for procedures such as hip replacement, urethra structural, knee arthroplasty, implants, and up to 10 years for organ transplant (this is dependent on donor availability and type of case).

Clinicians have to strike a balance between elective and lifesaving procedures that cannot wait.

"We have set in place a programme to address the various challenges that have contributed to the growing list of surgical backlogs. Some of the measures are short term whilst others will take longer," explains MEC for Health and Wellness Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko.



QUALITY ASSURANCE

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For any hospital or clinic complaints please contact the **Gauteng Department of Health** on the **24-hour customer line** on.

-  **0800 203 886 (Toll free number)**
-  **patients.health@gauteng.gov.za or support@gauteng.gov.za**
-  **SMS : 35023**

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WhatsApp **#TB** ku **0600 123456** noma ushayele ku ***134*832*5#** ukuthola ukuhlolwa



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STEP 1: Save this number **0600 123456** as a contact (Contact NDOH).

STEP 2: Open **WhatsApp** on your phone and send the word **#TB** to the WhatsApp number. Follow the prompts to complete the TBCheck.

STEP 3: Once you have completed the TBCheck, you will receive guidance on next steps based on your level of risk.

USSD Dial ***134*832*5#** and follow the prompts




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Medical Registrar: Paediatrics Surgery – Dr. George Mukhari Academic Hospital
Medical Officer (Urology) – Dr. George Mukhari Academic Hospital
Material Recording Clerk – Rahima Moosa Mother and Child Hospital
Secretary – Rahima Moosa Mother and Child Hospital
Senior Registrar In Nephrology (3-Year Contract), Helen Joseph Hospital
Medical Registrar – Urology - Helen Joseph Hospital
Groundsman / Property Caretaker Level 2 - Lilian Ngoyi X 2, Mofolo Chc X 1, Orlando Clinic X1, Diepkloof X1, Meadowlands X1 and Itireleng X1
Security Guard Level 3 -Lilian Ngoyi Chc X 3 Mofolo Chc X1 and Chiawelo CHC X1
Cleaner / Household Worker Level 2 – Meadowlands Clinic, Mofolo Chc And Zola CHC
Driver Level 4 – Sub District D
Administration Clerk Level 5 – Transport Office Sub District D
Administration Clerk Level 5 – Itireleng Chc, Zola Chc, Diepkloof Clinic, Chiawelo Chc X2, Lilian Ngoyi Chc X 2 And Orlando Clinic X2
Assistant Director: Supply Chain Management – Tembisa Hospital
Communications Clerk – Tembisa Hospital
Medical Specialist Grade 1, 2 And 3 – Roodepoort X1
Cleaner Level 2 – (Re-Advert) Dr. George Mukhari Academic Hospital
Occupational Medical Practitioner Grade 1,2 And 3 – (20 Sessions Per Month) Head Office
Security Officer Tara The H. Moross Centre, Sandton
Medical Specialist Grade 1, 2 and 3 (Histopathologist) – Johannesburg FPS
Medical Officer – Kalafong Provincial Tertiary Hospital
Medical Registrar – Thelle Mogoerane Regional Hospital
Personal Assistant Level 7 (CEO'S Office) – Head Office
Forensic Pathology Officer (Level 7) – Heidelberg Fps X1
Operational Manager: General Stream – Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital
Sessional Medical Specialist: Orthopaedics – Dr. George Mukhari Academic Hospital
Medical Registrar: Orthopaedics – Dr. George Mukhari Academic Hospital
Medical Officer: Orthopaedics – Dr. George Mukhari Academic Hospital
Physiotherapist Grade 1 – Thelle Mogoerane Regional Hospital

Medical Specialist Grade1 (Pediatrics) – Thelle Mogoerane Regional Hospital
Vice Principal (Single Campus) - Readvertisement – Rahima Moosa Campus
Vice Principal (Single Campus) -Re-Advertisement – Ann Latsky Campus
Medical Officer Grade 1,2 And 3 (Sessional) – Diepkloof FPS
Clinical Psychologist Grade 1-3 – Tara The H. Moross Centre, Sandton
Lecturer Pnd1/Pnd2 (Simulation Laboratory) – Chris Hani Baragwanth Campus
Medical Office – Kalafong Provincial Tertiary Hospital
Medical Specialist Grade 1 – Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital
Switchboard / Client Information Clerk Level Five (5) – Kalafong Provincial Tertiary Hospital
Assistant Director – Kalafong Provincial Tertiary Hospital
Assistant Manager: Pharmaceutical Services – Kalafong Provincial Tertiary Hospital
Occupational Therapist Production Level Grade 1 – Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital
Medical Officer Grade 1 – Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital
Principal Clinical Psychologist Grade 1 – Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital
Medical Specialist Grade 1 – Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital
Medical Specialist Grade 1 – (Three (3) Year Training Fellowship In Cardiology, And The Candidate Will Be Expected To Write The Certificate In Cardiology) Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital
Senior Administration Officer: Transport – Kalafong Provincial Tertiary Hospital
Mammography Radiographer – Kalafong Provincial Tertiary Hospital
Diagnostic Radiographer – Kalafong Provincial Tertiary Hospital
Medical Specialist Fellow (Fixed Two Years' Contract) – Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital
Pna7 Assistant Manager (General) Nursing Area (Night Duty) – Kalafong Provincial Tertiary Hospital
Pna7 Assistant Manager Nursing Area (General) – Kalafong Provincial Tertiary Hospital
Medical Officer – Kalafong Provincial Tertiary Hospital
Lecturer Pnd1/Pnd2 Diploma In Nursing – Chris Hani Baragwanath Campus

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Individuals looking at applying for government jobs, bursaries and learning opportunities should consider tips below:

- Search for opportunities on verified government platforms including social media platforms, websites and adverts through reliable newspapers, e.g. the Gauteng e-Recruitment System (Professional Job Centre), Department of Public Service Administration (DPSA) vacancy circular.
- Always follow instructions carefully and fill in Z83 with precision.
- Students who want to study towards a Higher Certificate in Emergency Medical Care (one year) or Diploma in Emergency Medical Care (two years) at Legbone College of Emergency Care. For more info visit: <https://lcoec.ac.za>
- Study towards a Diploma in nursing in various specialties including critical care nursing, trauma and emergency nursing, amongst others at the Gauteng College of Nursing. For more info, please call: 011 644 8946

NOTE: Applications should be submitted strictly online at the following E-Recruitment portal: <http://professionaljobcenter.gpg.gov.za>. No hand delivered, faxed or e-mailed applications will be accepted. NB: For assistance with online applications please e-mail your query to e-recruitment@gauteng.gov.za.