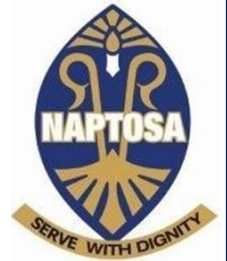


NATIONAL NEWS FLASH



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Hamanskraal Cholera Outbreak

NAPTOSA is concerned about the Cholera outbreak in Hamanskraal, Pretoria. More especially after numerous complaints and pleas from community members have fallen on deaf ears and have been ignored by administration after administration. With residents dying how much longer can administration ignore the crisis?

Residents are now advised against the use of tap water, by the very same Tshwane municipality, who has failed to upgrade ailing infrastructure and support families with potable water, failing the community once again.

While we understand that cholera outbreaks can occur in any population, children are particularly vulnerable to the disease due to their weaker immune systems. Access to clean and drinkable water is a basic human right. This outbreak is a clear indication of the neglect of our townships, neglect of our schools, neglect of our teachers and most importantly a neglect of our children. We are all aware that Cholera can spread rapidly among children due to various factors, such as their need for close contact with others, especially infants and young children, who have less developed immune systems compared to adults. This makes them more susceptible to cholera infection and increases the severity of the disease. Their bodies may struggle to fight off the infection, leading to more severe symptoms and a higher risk of complications.

NAPTOSA appeals to teachers to highlight the prevention and control of cholera among children during contact time, by promoting proper hygiene practices, such as handwashing with soap, rinsing fresh fruit thoroughly as well as methods to purify drinking water by boiling water or treating it with household bleach (adding 2 drops of household bleach for every 1 liter of water) and wait 30 minutes before drinking.

NAPTOSA calls on the Department of Basic Education to ensure that the matter is addressed with urgency. Addressing concerns about children during a cholera outbreak requires a multi-faceted approach that focuses on prevention, early detection, and effective treatment. Collaborative efforts between governments, healthcare organisations, and all other stakeholders are essential to protect the health and well-being of children in such situations.

Mr BL Manuel

Executive Director