

24 February 2023

RE: Updated IMASA Measles Vaccine Statement

In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Most Merciful. All praises are due to Allah in all the ways He has attributed praises to Himself and universal salutations to our beloved Prophet Muhammad SAW, his family and companions [RA].

In view of the recent queries around the current measles vaccines, and further to our Measles Vaccination statements on the 16 May 2017¹, 30 May 2017² and 12 Jan 2023³, the Islamic Medical Association of South Africa (IMASA) re-iterates its support for the current nationwide vaccination programme against measles (and other childhood illnesses) and urges parents to have their children immunized against it.

The number of measles cases is increasing, with the Western Cape being declared a measles outbreak area as of yesterday. This brings to total 6 out of the 9 provinces with measles outbreaks.

Measles is a highly contagious viral illness that spreads quickly from person to person. Its symptoms include fever, cough, conjunctivitis and rash. Its complications can be severe and include dehydration, pneumonia, blindness, encephalitis and death. However, measles is easily preventable through simple yet effective vaccination. Vaccination is important both for individual protection, and for prevention of spread within households, and within communities.

Currently, there are four measles vaccines available in South Africa - MeasBio, Cipla Measles Vaccine, Omzyta and Priorix. Of the four, Priorix (which is a triple vaccine providing protection vs Measles, Mumps and Rubella) is the only one free of any porcine gelatine ingredients. However, Priorix is expensive and not readily available, therefore putting it out of reach of many parents.

According to the consensus of a majority of ulema locally (UUCSA⁴ & MJC⁵) and internationally (Islamic Organisation for Medical Sciences Seminar Kuwait - 1995⁶, Egypt's Dar al-Ifta Cairo - Dec. 2020⁷, and Prof. Dr. Ali Muhyiddin Al-Qaradaghi - Sept. 2021⁸) vaccines containing questionable/impure elements may be taken if:

1. There are no available alternatives.
2. There is proven efficacy of the vaccine.
3. There is obliteration (*istihlak*) of the impure substance during the manufacturing process to the point of not being traceable, or potential metamorphic transformation (*istihalah*) of the impure element during the manufacturing process.⁵

KWAZULU NATAL

031 209 7838
✉ imakzn@baytulnur.org.za
📍 P.O. Box 701063, Overport 4067

GAUTENG

011 837 6717 / 084 701 3208
✉ imasa.gauteng@gmail.com
📍 P.O. Box 347, Crown Mines 2025

WESTERN CAPE


021 762 1414 / 079 612 9592
✉ imasa.wcape@gmail.com
📍 9 Quick Rd, Lansdowne 7780

In view of the above IMASA recommends:

1. All children must be vaccinated against measles and all other preventable childhood diseases.
2. Vaccination against measles should preferably be done with vaccines that do not contain questionable ingredients.
3. If vaccines without questionable ingredients are not available, then alternatives that do contain questionable ingredients can be used.

And Allah SWT knows best

Wassalaam



Dr. Mohammed Irshad Moosa [President of IMASA]

REFERENCES:

1. Official Islamic Medical Association of South Africa Stance on Vaccination – May 2017 - Mr. Solly Suleman [Past President of IMASA]
2. Official Islamic Medical Association of South Africa Stance on Vaccination – www.nicd.ac.za/official-stance-on-vaccination-islamic-medical-association-south-africa.
3. IMASA Measles Outbreak 2022/2023 Statement – Jan 2023 – Drs. S. Cassim and M.I. Moosa
4. Vaccinations Public Statement– United Ulema Council of South Africa- 22 Feb 2021
5. Measle Vaccinations Public Statement - Muslim Judicial Council Fatwa Committee – 22 Feb 2023
6. Hussein A Gezairy, Regional Director - World Health Organisation Regional Office for the eastern Mediterranean Letter – 17 Jul 2001
7. Egypt’s Dar al- Ifta Authorizes Use of Covid-19 Vaccine Containing Pork Components, Asharq Al-Awsat – 27 Dec 2020
8. Prof. Dr. Ali Muhyiddin Al-Qaradaghi - Fatwa of Prof. Allama Dr. Ali Al-Qaradaghi, Global Shariah Expert, Correspondence with Mr. MS Omar - 12 Sept. 2021

KWAZULU NATAL

031 209 7838
imakzn@baytulnur.org.za
P.O. Box 701063, Overport 4067

GAUTENG

011 837 6717 / 084 701 3208
imasa.gauteng@gmail.com
P.O. Box 347, Crown Mines 2025

WESTERN CAPE

021 762 1414 / 079 612 9592
imasa.wcape@gmail.com
9 Quick Rd, Lansdowne 7780