



Ministry of Health
& Social Services

HEALTH NEWS

VACCINATION RELATED DEATHS

The Ministry has finalised its investigation in the deaths of three children alleged to have been caused by vaccinations for children at one of our primary health care clinics.

The investigations were carried out by a committee comprising of members from the Ministry of Health and Social Services, World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Medi Clinic, and the Namibia Institute of Pathology.

The Ministry is now in the process of engaging the parents on the outcome of the investigations. A public statement will be issued once this process is finalised.

In the meantime we urge all parents to continue taking their children for immunization. Vaccines are safe and are among the 21st century's most successful, cost-effective, and high-impact public health tools for prevention of disease, disability and death. Vaccination serves to protect children from vaccine-preventable diseases such as Tuberculosis, polio, tetanus, measles, whooping cough, Hepatitis B, and pneumococcal pneumonia/ meningitis.

Every year, the Ministry of Health and Social Services immunizes more than 70,000 infants to protect them against common childhood diseases and ensure healthy communities. The immunization coverage trends for Namibia (2011 to 2014) shows improvements from 82% to 92% of infants receiving the recommended three doses of Pentavalent vaccine which protects against five diseases (diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, hepatitis and haemophilus influenza); and from 75% to 83% vaccinated against measles.

PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE