



MINISTRY OF HEALTH

STATE DEPARTMENT FOR MEDICAL SERVICES

PRESS STATEMENT: 5TH JUNE 2024

REPLENISHMENT OF ROUTINE VACCINES IN KENYA

Following recent media reports on vaccine shortages in the country, the Ministry of Health has taken urgent steps to address the issue and ensure our children remain protected from vaccine-preventable diseases.

The Ministry of Health has allocated Kshs 1.25 billion to urgently procure routine childhood vaccines, including BCG, Oral Polio, Tetanus-Diphtheria, and Measles Rubella, which had reached critically low levels in the country. As of today, we are pleased to announce the receipt of the following vaccines:

The received vaccines are currently being processed for urgent distribution to the nine regional vaccine stores across the country. To expedite this process, the

1,209,500 doses	Measles Rubella vaccines
3,032,000 doses	Oral Polio Vaccines (bOPV)
1,000,000 doses	Tetanus-Diphtheria vaccines
3,129,000 doses	BCG vaccines

Ministry of Health has engaged additional refrigerated trucks to ensure these lifesaving vaccines reach our health facilities and communities by the second week of June 2024.

As the vaccines begin arriving at our facilities, we call on our healthcare workers to collaborate with community health teams to ensure all children who missed vaccinations return to the facilities and catch up on their immunization schedule. We also urge all caregivers to bring their children back to the facilities for immunization as vaccine supply has now normalized in the country.

The Ministry of Health is grateful for the support received from Gavi over the years and remains committed to ensuring a smooth transition as Kenya moves towards becoming fully self-financing by 2030. To achieve this, the Ministry is exploring innovative options for sustainable financing of vaccine procurement and program operations to prevent future stockouts.

We will continue engaging the National Treasury to ensure increased and dedicated resources are allocated to the immunization program, ensuring stable vaccine supplies. Ring-fencing domestic resources will guarantee sustainable financing for

immunization and universal access to vaccines, aligning with our efforts in Primary Health Care.

We acknowledge the role of our immunization partners, the media, and civil society in amplifying and raising awareness of the vaccine stockout issues. This indicates a strong health-seeking behavior in our communities and the excellent demand for vaccines in Kenya.

We appreciate the quick intervention of the State Department of Medical Services, the National Vaccines and Immunization Program, and UNICEF's supplies division for their swift distribution of the vaccines.

Mr. Harry Kintai, CBS

PRINCIPAL SECRETARY

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