# NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

**FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION NO. 561**

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**(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 04)**

**Dr S S Thembekwayo (EFF) to ask the Minister of Health:**

In light of the fact that Tshwane has confirmed at least seven typhoid fever cases between December 2021 and February 2022, what is his department’s level of readiness to deal with typhoid fever outbreak?

NW629E

**REPLY:**

The Department of Health has Outbreak Response Teams at National, Provincial, District and facility level. These teams are activated on notification of an outbreak of any communicable disease in the province and in the country, typhoid fever inclusive. The teams meet regularly to discuss and monitor the trajectory of all prevalent notifiable medical conditions, one of which is the Typhoid disease.

Typhoid (*Salmonella* Typhi) is a Notifiable Medical Condition, meaning that all confirmed cases must be officially reported to the Department of Health through the Notifiable Medical Conditions Surveillance System (NMCSS). The NICD Notifiable Medical Condition (NMC) system helps to notify cases of Typhoid and other communicable diseases in real-time. These timely notifications assist members of the Outbreak response teams to respond urgently to any Typhoid case and any communicable disease outbreak at all levels of service delivery. In addition, the district team downloads cases daily on the NMC system if any have been reported and liaise with the IPC nurses to get the demographics of the cases so that the clusters can be correctly identified, and contact tracing can commence.

Environmental Health Practitioners regularly go inside communities where there are possibilities of community members drinking from streams, dams, rivers, and lakes. They collect samples of water from these water entities and measure levels and concentration of E. coli in these waters. These levels are proxy indicators of the levels of the Typhoid fever pathogens.

They also use the opportunity to educate community members about the Typhoid disease and how to prevent this disease. Social mobilization and Risk Communications are ongoing in the communities towards the prevention and control of Typhoid disease. The provinces make use of community radio stations and secure slots where communities are educated about typhoid.

END.