



# EASTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE

Shadow MEC for Education

The Hon. Yusuf Cassim MPL



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MEC OF EDUCATION  
HON. FUNDILE GADE MPL

Dear MEC Gade

**RE: PROVISION OF INFLUENZA VACCINES AT SCHOOLS**

The abovementioned matter has reference.

The Democratic Alliance has noted the recent outbreak of Influenza A in Nelson Mandela Bay, which led to the temporary shut-down of Grey Junior School this week, with concern.

The influenza vaccine is considered by healthcare authorities the world over, including the National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD) in South Africa, to offer individuals and communities the best protection available against influenza.

It is also strongly recommended that those at risk, particularly people living with HIV, TB and chronic diseases get vaccinated.

It is my understanding that the Department of Health, in collaboration with the Department of Education, does provide for vaccinations against HPV, measles as well as deworming. These services are offered at schools to learners whose parents have given written consent. Further, while flu vaccines are available to the public through clinics, it is not offered as part of this collaboration at schools.

I therefore would like to request clarity on whether the flu vaccine is available to learners and, if not, that the Department of Education engage with the Department of Health to urgently include the flu vaccine in their service offerings.

Children need to be healthy in order to learn at their highest potential. Timely flu vaccinations will help in preventing the spread of the disease, thus reducing the overall number of sick days and giving learners the best possible advantage to learn.

I trust you shall receive this correspondence favourably.

Hon. Yusuf Cassim MPL  
Shadow MEC of Education