Let’s protect the children, and prevent a measles outbreak in the Eastern Cape

South Africa is experiencing the worst measles outbreak in over a decade. As the Eastern Cape has the country’s lowest rate of full immunisation in children, which includes the measles vaccine, the risk of an official measles outbreak in the province is high. **If clinics act quickly to protect children, an outbreak can be averted.** The National Institute for Communicable Diseases advises that “it is never too late to vaccinate” – children can receive the measles vaccine at any age over 6 months.

70% of Asivikelane Health residents are parents or guardians. They rely heavily on clinics for their children’s healthcare needs. 92% of residents believe that vaccines boost children’s immune systems. Clinics can help by making vaccines more accessible.

Many residents asked for more education on childhood immunisation and several of them requested information about safety and potential side effects.

Residents shared ideas on what clinics can do to make immunisation easier:

- Provide immunisations at schools.
- Have special ‘vaccination days’ at clinics.
- Offer home-based immunisations.
- Provide mobile and pop-up vaccine services.

95% of residents are aware of the measles outbreak – up from 85% last month.