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PRESS RELEASE

TYPHOID ALERT

Since the beginning of October 2011 typhoid has been occurring in Kuwadzana and Dzivarasekwa suburbs and to date two hundred and seven (207) people have suffered from the disease while one has died

People who live in or visit typhoid affected areas and fail to take preventive measures against the disease may be infected and spread the disease locally or elsewhere where there is no typhoid.

Typhoid is a serious form of diarrheal disease which is spread through drinking water and eating food contaminated or fouled with typhoid germs. Lack of hygiene contributes to the spread of the disease.

Typhoid is identified by diarrhoea, stomach pains, very high temperatures, sweating, general body pains and weakness, headache, poor appetite and rash

To date typhoid has not yet spread outside Harare but with the advent of the festive season-people from affected areas that may be infected or are carriers may visit other places and spread the disease. Typhoid is another serious diarrheal disease that can cause an epidemic leading to unnecessary illness and loss of lives. Communities, individuals, families, schools, local authorities, food vendors, should take maximum precaution and measures to prevent the spread of typhoid.

The following measures should be taken to prevent typhoid (i.e.)

- Wash hands thoroughly with soap or ash under safe running water after care of a person suffering from typhoid, after using the toilet and before handling and eating food.
- Cook food thoroughly and eat whilst still hot.
- Disinfect drinking water through either boiling or use of water purification tablets or solutions
- Wash fruits and vegetables under safe running water before eating them
- Avoid shaking hands at public gatherings particularly at funerals
- Dispose refuse appropriately to prevent fly breeding
- Talk to your health workers about the appropriate disinfection of the patient discharges and soiled clothes as they are potential source of infection
- If you suspect typhoid in your village and community, immediately advise health workers at your nearest health facility.