



The Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf)
cordially invites you to a webinar on

Typhoid Fever in South Africa: Lessons from Recent Outbreaks

Date: 27 January 2026
Time: 11:00 – 12:30
Venue: Zoom
RSVP: [Click here](#) to register

This webinar seeks to raise awareness, share insights from recent outbreaks, and promote effective prevention and control strategies rooted in improved hygiene, sanitation, and proactive health-seeking behaviour.

Background

Typhoid fever remains a global public health concern, with 11–21 million infections and up to 188 000 deaths annually. While South Africa records a relatively low incidence (0.1/100 000), recent outbreaks in areas such as Hammanskraal and Bronkhorstspuit underscore the ongoing challenges linked to water safety, sanitation, and disease surveillance. Despite overall improvements, sporadic outbreaks persist, often worsened by overcrowding and inadequate infrastructure, highlighting the need for sustained vigilance and strengthened prevention and response systems.

Programme

Moderator: Dr Elizabeth Lutge, KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health

11:00 - 11:10	Welcome and Introductory Remarks Dr Elizabeth Lutge
11:10 – 11:25	Epidemiology and Lessons from Recent Typhoid Outbreaks in South Africa Mr Phuti Sekwadi, National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD)
11:25 – 11:40	Water Quality, Emerging Contaminants, and Public Health Risks: Implications for Typhoid Fever Prevention in South Africa Dr Eunice Ubomba-Jaswa, Water Research Commission (WRC)
11:40 – 11:55	Strengthening One Health Systems for the Prevention and Control of Waterborne and Infectious Diseases Prof Wanda Markotter, University of Pretoria (UP)
11:55 – 12:10	Antimicrobial Resistance in Enteric Pathogens: A One Health Perspective on Typhoid Fever Control in South Africa Dr Nhlanhla Shimange-Masemola, Lancet Laboratories
12:10 – 12:25	Q&A
12:25 – 12:30	Closing Remarks Dr Elizabeth Lutge



Biographies



Dr Elizabeth Lutge is a South African public health researcher and health systems specialist with advanced medical and public health qualifications, including an MBChB, MPH, MSc, and PhD. She is Director of Health Research and Knowledge Management in the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health, where she oversees research governance and supports evidence-based policymaking. Her work focuses on epidemiology and health systems, including trauma and surgical care, HIV and TB services, and community health workers, with an emphasis on improving equity, access, and service delivery in underserved communities.



Mr Phuti Sekwadi is a public health professional with nearly eight years' experience in enteric disease surveillance and outbreak response at the Centre for Enteric Diseases, NICD. His work focuses on surveillance of pathogens such as Listeria, Vibrio cholerae, Salmonella and Shigella, and on leading and supporting outbreak investigations. He is also an active mentor and lecturer, contributing to epidemiology training through the South African Field Epidemiology Training Programme and postgraduate teaching.



Dr Eunice Ubomba-Jaswa holds a PhD in Microbiology (RCSI) and an MSc in Medical Microbiology (LSHTM), with expertise in microbiological water quality and public health. She is Research Manager: Water Resources Quality at the Water Research Commission, where she manages projects on source water pollution, emerging contaminants, contaminant removal, and water source protection. She supervises postgraduate students, has co-authored over 30 publications, and serves on the editorial board of *Integrated Environmental Assessment and Management*.



Prof Wanda Markotter is Interim Director and Research Chair: People, Health, and Places (One Health) at Future Africa, University of Pretoria, and Director of the Centre for Viral Zoonoses. She holds the DSTI-NRF SARCHI Chair in Infectious Diseases of Animals (Zoonoses) and conducts interdisciplinary research on bat pathogens and spillover risk. She is Co-Chair of the One Health High-Level Expert Panel advising WHO, WOA, FAO and UNEP, has published over 100 papers, supervised more than 60 postgraduate students, and is an NRF B1-rated researcher.



Dr Nhlanhla Shimange-Masemola is a specialist Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases pathologist based in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal. She provides expert diagnostic and consultative laboratory services, supporting pathogen identification, antimicrobial susceptibility testing, and clinical decision-making. Her work focuses on strengthening diagnostic quality, surveillance, and access to high-quality laboratory services, particularly in resource-constrained settings.