



# COMMUNITY SNAPSHOT

**“Majekiseni edzihwa mupengo  
tikabaiwa muchando muno  
tinopera kufa.”**

**Masvingo, Shona**



**Translation:**

**Getting COVID-19 vaccination during this winter will cause death**

# FACT CHECKING



- This rumour highlights lingering concerns around the side effects of COVID-19 vaccines which may be contributing to vaccine hesitancy, a worrying concern as the country moves into the winter season which has been associated with spikes in COVID-19 infections. It also highlights the need for continued efforts towards addressing misinformation on COVID-19 vaccines so that people can make informed decisions about vaccination especially as the country transitions to winter season.
- Dr Michael Bhebhe from the Midlands State University (MSU) Faculty of Medicine says there is no link between COVID-19 vaccination and weather.
- Zimbabwe's MoHCC, Constentino Chiwenga last year urged citizens to be vigilant and continue adhering to COVID-19 prevention controls to protect themselves from COVID-19 during winter, considering the season provides an ideal environment for the spread of COVID-19.
- The MoHCC and the World Health Organisation (WHO) have noted COVID-19 vaccines as being safe and effective in preventing severe illness and death in those infected with COVID-19.

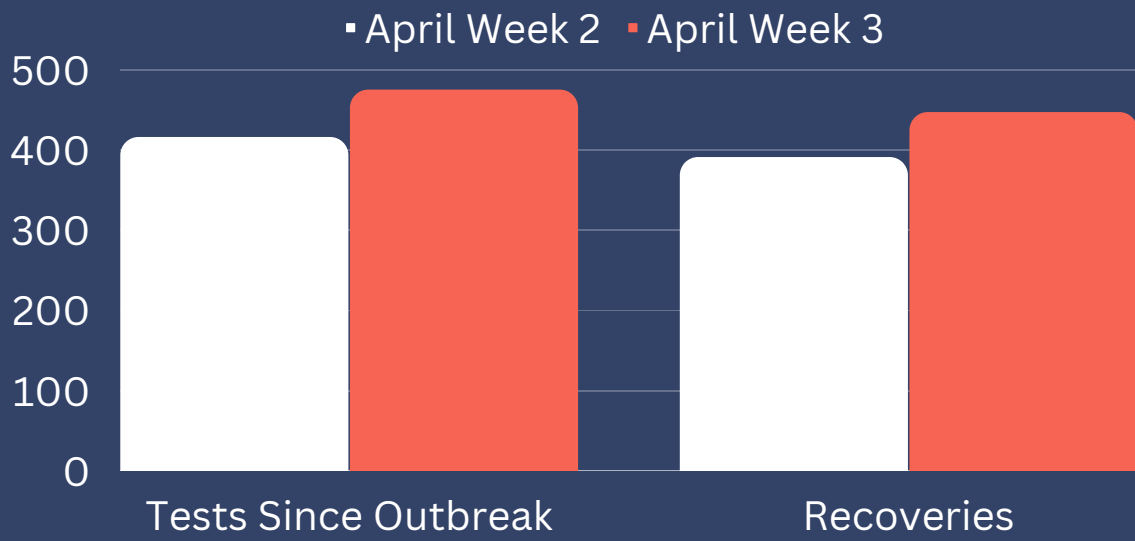
## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COMMUNITIES

- **Community Based Organisations can work** with Community Health Workers in disseminating Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials that highlight advantages and disadvantages of being vaccinated ahead of the winter season while debunking myths on vaccine side effects.
- **Community Health Workers may distribute local language** fact sheets and infographics that explain how vaccines work and the side effects that vaccinated people may experience after being vaccinated.



# CHOLERA UPDATE

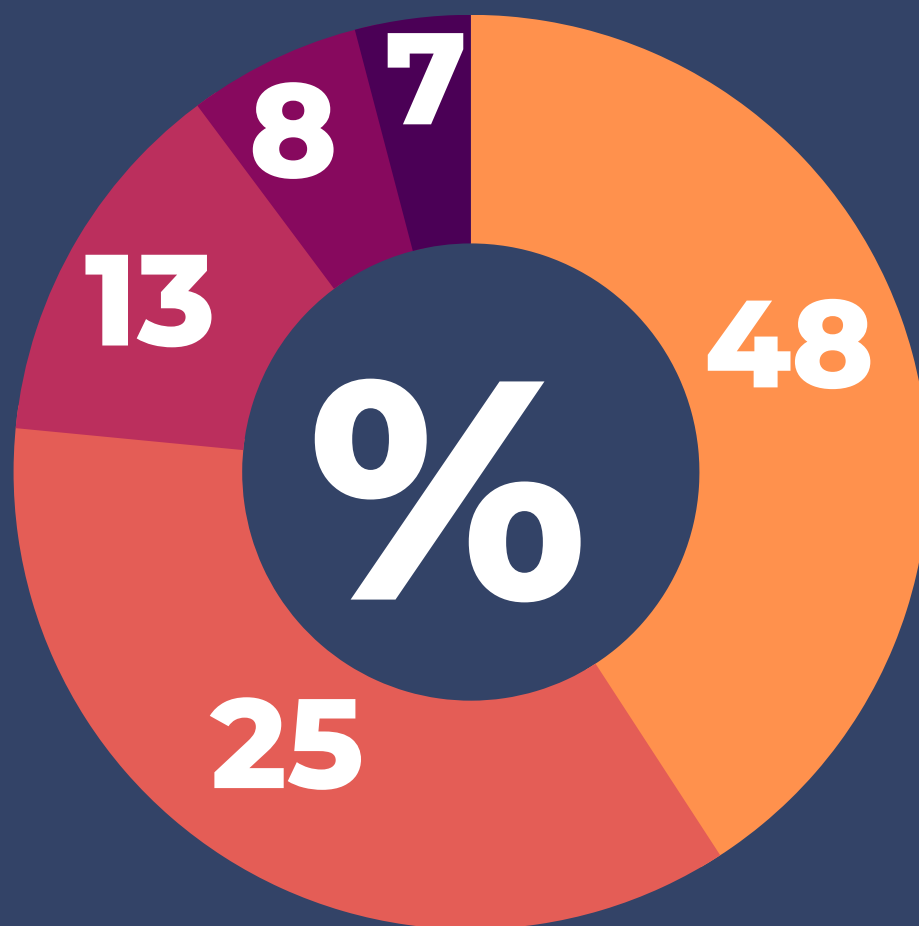
- On February 12, 2023, Zimbabwe recorded an outbreak of Cholera in Chegutu, Mashonaland West Province. The April 25, 2023 post-cabinet briefing notes that while efforts to contain the outbreak had been intensified, cumulative suspected cases had reached 536, with 503 recoveries and 3 deaths as of 23 April 2023. Nine of the country's ten provinces have reported suspected cases, with only Matabeleland North Province still unaffected by the outbreak. The most recent 6 suspected cases were reported in Midlands Province. The worst affected provinces are Matabeleland South which recorded 186 cases; and Manicaland with 152 cases.
- To date, 17 Cholera hotspot Districts in the country have been identified as Buhera, Chegutu, Chikomba, Chimanimani, Chipinge, Chitungwiza, Chiredzi, Harare, Gokwe North, Marondera, Mazowe, Shamva, Mutare, Murehwa, Mwenezi, Seke and Wedza. As of April 18, 2023, a cumulative total of 475 suspected Cholera cases, two confirmed deaths, seven suspected Cholera deaths and 104 laboratory confirmed cases were reported.








Visualisation by Internews: Data by Ministry of Health and Child Care (MoHCC)



# RUMOUR TRENDS



## *Trending Rumor Themes*

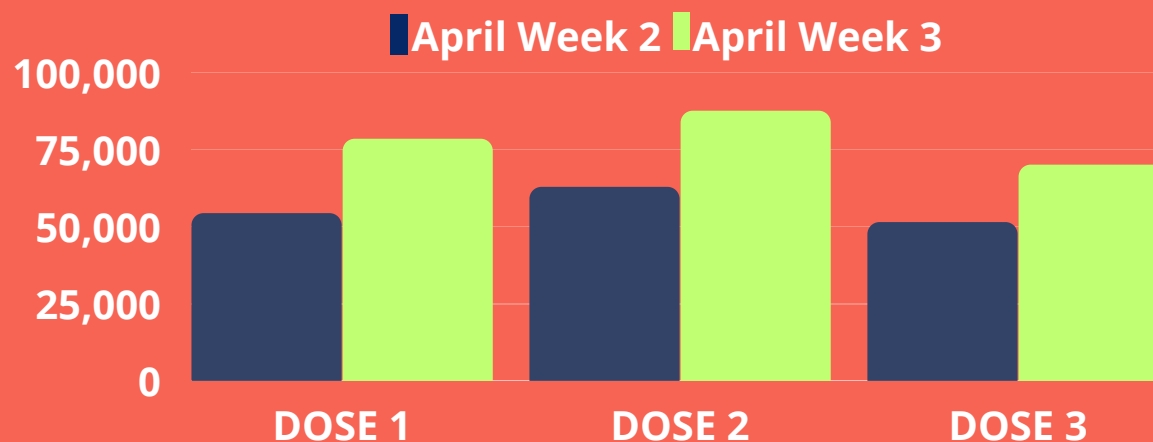
-  COVID-19 vaccines cause death.
-  Poor sanitation will worsen the Cholera outbreak.
-  SRHR education is limited among youths.
-  COVID-19 is endemic.
-  Government is using COVID-19 for corruption.

*Visualisation by Internews: Data from RiT 2.0 Global Rumor Dashboard*

Between April 12 and April 18, 2023, Internews in Zimbabwe collected 251 COVID-19, other health and humanitarian related rumours. Of the total, 20 rumours were collected online (Facebook: Eight (12) and Twitter: (8) Eight) and 231 through in-person interactions. Trending rumour themes were, “COVID-19 vaccines cause death” (48%), “Poor sanitation will worsen the Cholera outbreak” (25%), “SRHR education is limited among youths” (13%), “COVID-19 is endemic” (8%) and “Government is using COVID-19 for corruption” (7%).

# COVID-19 TRENDS

## Week-on-week Comparison



Source: Visualisation by Internews: Data by MoHCC

- First vaccine dose uptake in Zimbabwe increased by 44% from 54,307 doses administered in week two of April 2023 to 78,393 doses administered in week three of April 2023.
- There was a 39% increase in the uptake of the second vaccine dose and 36% increase in the uptake of the third vaccine dose. Second vaccine dose uptake increased from 62,826 to 87,479 doses, while the third vaccine dose uptake increased from 51,407 to 69,998 doses.
- As of April 18, 2023, there were 58 active COVID-19 cases with seven hospitalisations of vaccinated people. One COVID-19 related death was recorded during week three.
- Cumulatively, Zimbabwe has vaccinated 7,111,070 people with the first vaccine dose and 5,334,594 with the second vaccine dose, translating to 53.3% of the 10 million herd immunity target initially set for end of December 2022. A total of 1,871,623 people have received the third vaccine dose.

Click [here](#) to share feedback