

South Africa superbug kills six newborns

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An outbreak of the *Klebsiella pneumonia* superbug that killed six newborns at a government hospital in Johannesburg has forced medics to close the facility's neo-natal and maternity wards.

The Thelle Mogoerane hospital in the eastern Johannesburg township of Vosloorus has been in the grip of the [antibiotic resistant bacteria](#) since July 11.

"We can no longer admit babies here," said Health Minister Aaron Motsoaledi in a media briefing on Sunday.

The affected patients are being transferred to another government [hospital](#) as well as the Nelson Mandela Children's Hospital, which opened in Johannesburg 18 months ago, he added.

The [health minister](#) said overcrowding undermined the facility's infection control measures.

He said neonatal wards in Gauteng province, which includes the financial hub Johannesburg and the capital Pretoria, were at 132 percent capacity on average.

The province has huge numbers of patients from neighbouring countries including Zimbabwe who travel to South Africa in search of better quality care.

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