

I CHOOSE VACCINATION BULLETIN

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ISSUE 1



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Website: www.sacoronavirus.co.za • WhatsApp Support Line: 0600-123456 • Emergency Hotline: 0800 029 999



MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

receiving
medical
tools.

I am happy to say that this time, with the advent of COVID-19, we fought very hard to ensure that we are not left behind.

First, we joined the COVAX facility, which brought together scores of countries just like ours who would have a tough time competing for vaccines. Through this initiative we have secured 12 million doses. We also hold an important position as co-chair of the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A) the other co-chair is Norway. This body fights for the right of all countries to access COVID-19 tools be it testing kits, medicines or vaccines. Through these kinds of initiatives, we raise global awareness of the difficulties countries like ours face to be able to buy life saving vaccines. We are also able to support our African brethren, by helping them raise money and build strong health care systems so they have the best chance of distributing vaccines to their people.

Now, we have secured 31 million doses of Johnson and Johnson and we also have 30 million doses of Pfizer vaccine. We are very proud that we were the first country to use the Johnson and Johnson COVID-19 vaccine through the Sisonke Protocol. This is a unique experience because the Johnson and Johnson vaccine is the

Fellow Citizens

As a nation we have experienced great suffering at the hands of COVID-19. Together, we have weathered such a storm as was last seen over a century ago. History is peppered with stories of loss and pain due to the terrible effects of plagues and disease. These stories, like ours, are heavy with the wreckage of social upheaval, economic decimation and psychological scarring.

It is often said that in a crisis, one must count one's blessings. One of our many blessings has been the scientific advancement we have made in medicine, that brought us vaccines barely a year after a new virus evolved. We have never developed a safe and effective vaccine so fast before, but this is because we have had many decades of major advancements in our understanding of disease and we have become better at engineering tools to fight disease.

One of the historical injustices we have suffered, despite this wonderful progress that would contribute to the overall good health of humankind, is the legacy of exclusion that has often found Africa at the tail end of

only vaccine that only needs one dose. It is also easy to store and lasts a very long time up to two years if stored at -20 degrees. It also works against the 501Y.V2 variant, the one that drove the second wave and caused so much devastation.

Being the first country to use the Johnson and Johnson vaccine, we decided to do a big study so that we can teach ourselves and the rest of the world to make the best of a vaccine that is so easy to use and easy to store. The Medical Research Council decided to study the outcomes of first 500 000 doses that are given to health care workers this is what the Sisonke Protocol is all about. When the Pfizer vaccine arrives, which is a two dose vaccine and requires special freezers, we will also do a study to see what happens when we vaccinate a couple of hundred thousand people with Pfizer. The results of these two studies will be very important knowledge as more people are vaccinated around the world.

I know that some people are worried that there may be cells of aborted fetuses in the vaccines. We wish to reassure all South Africans that there are no animal or human remains in the vaccines. The vaccines are safe to use, just like the vaccines we use to protect our children from diseases like tetanus, diphtheria, measles and polio. In fact just last year, South Africa was declared Polio Free by the WHO. This is the power of achieving population immunity through mass vaccination. We had to pause the rollout of Johnson and Johnson for a few days because we heard from other countries that a few patients developed clots after they got the Johnson and Johnson vaccine. However we are happy that our regulator, SAHPRA, has decided that the vaccine is still safe to use because the clots happened to very few people so the risk is low. In America, there were only six women who developed the clots after 6 million people had been given Johnson and Johnson. In South Africa, nearly 300 000 health care workers have received Johnson and Johnson and no one got a clot.

We are ready to vaccinate as many people as possible this year so that we can achieve population immunity and look forward to a brighter future in our social, religious and economic lives. The Department of Health has a plan to vaccinate about 270 000 people a day. We will be using the EVDS system to ensure that everyone can register and be accounted for. We have identified thousands of potential

vaccination centres which include your local health facility, pharmacies, community halls and even large stadiums and conference centres. For those people that are hard to reach, we will come out and find them. We are training and preparing many thousands of health care workers to be able to vaccinate at least 40 people per day each. In the Sisonke protocol, the health care workers learnt to vaccinate a person every 4 minutes each.

We have designed a seamless journey for all those who will be vaccinated: when you register on the EVDS you will receive an appointment and a date on your cellphones. When you arrive at the vaccination centre it will be a quick and safe process to get your jab and then the EVDS will generate your vaccination certificate when you are done. If you do not have a cellphone and you cannot register we will ensure you get the help you need to be registered and to vaccinate. When you get vaccinated, you will not be asked to pay out of pocket for your vaccination. If you have a medical aid card take it with you so your medical aid can pay. If you do not have medical aid the state will pay for your vaccine.

Many organisations and businesses have come together to work with government to ensure the vaccination campaign is a success. We are all in this together. During the vaccine rollout there will be no division between those that have medical aid and those that do not. Anyone can be sent to any facility because they will all be operating under one system. All facilities will have the same standard of care.

This bulletin will be released weekly to ensure that you have the latest information on the vaccines we are using, the sites that are activated, and all the information you need to be able to vaccinate safely.

I Choose Vaccination! We all Choose Vaccination!

**Yours in health
Dr. Mkhize**

TESTIMONY of

**Nurse
Zoliswa
Gidi-Dyosi,**

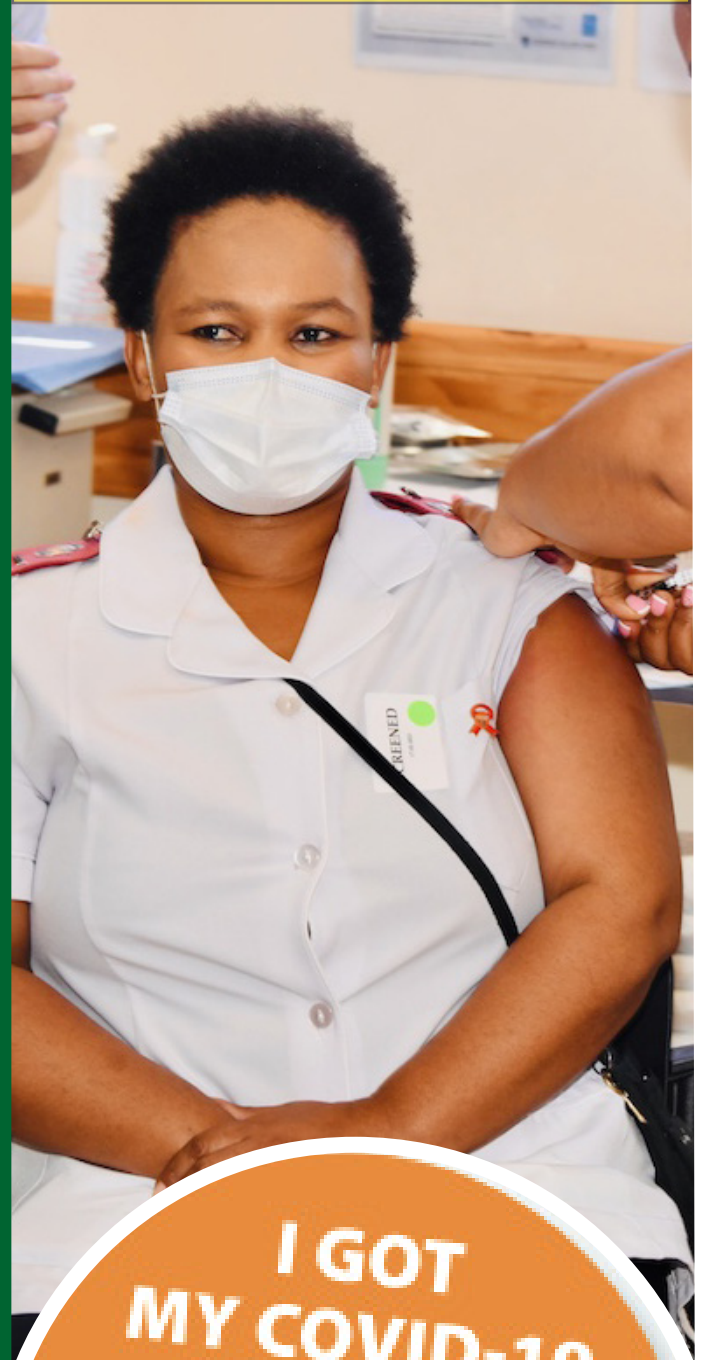
a registered nurse and midwife, became the first South African to receive the COVID-19 vaccine at the Khayelitsha Hospital, in Cape Town.

“I was unaware that I will be the first one to receive vaccine. The vaccination went well, and I was able to continue with my routine work after a short period of observation. I am still the same person I was before inoculation” said Zoliswa after receiving the vaccine.

She would also like to encourage other South Africans to get vaccinated: “I wish all people can see me and know that vaccines save lives. We can prevent avoidable deaths and funerals if we take vaccines, we can reduce the COVID-19 mortality rate in our country if we all dispel fake news and misinformation about vaccines.”

Being vaccinated on the same day, place and time with President Cyril Ramaphosa and Minister Zweli Mkhize will remain one of the most memorable events in her life, but Nurse Zoliswa still has a warning for South Africans: “Although I am vaccinated, I still comply with non-pharmaceutical prevention measures – wear a facemask, wash and sanitise your hands and keep your social distance.”

NURSE ZOLISWA GIDI-DYOSI



**I GOT
MY COVID-19
VACCINE!**



REGISTRATION



HOW DO I REGISTER TO GET VACCINATED?

We are ready to register all our senior citizens; the most vulnerable people in the general population.

If you are 60 years or older, you may now register for vaccination.

You must have your ID and medical aid card (if you have one) ready before you register. When you register, it is very important that you put in the correct cell phone number, the address where you live, and the correct medical aid number (if you have one).

Remember that registration does not guarantee that you will be vaccinated immediately.

To register on the website:

1. First make sure you have internet access.
2. You will need a smartphone, a tablet or a computer.
3. Connect to the internet and go to <https://vaccine.enroll.health.gov.za>.
4. The welcome screen will tell you what to do next.
5. Follow the instructions. Put in all the details the system asks for.
6. When you are done the system will send an SMS to the phone number you provided. This SMS will tell you that you are registered. This means that the system now has you in the queue.
7. When it is your turn to be vaccinated, the system will send you another SMS with a date and the venue for your vaccination. If you put in the correct address, you will be sent to the vaccination centre that is closest to your home.

We want everyone to be vaccinated.

If you don't have internet or a device, don't worry. Someone will come to help you, or you can go straight to the vaccination centre closest to your home. Bring your ID and your medical aid card, if you have one.

We can all help our senior citizens to register. Help your mother, father, grandmother, grandfather or friend who is 60 years or older to register so they can get vaccinated. Government will also send out teams to places where it will be difficult for our senior citizens to register.

EVDS

ELECTRONIC VACCINATION DATA SYSTEM

Your Guide to the Electronic Vaccination Data System (EVDS)

citizens aged 60 years and above need to **register for their COVID-19 vaccination** through the EVDS self enrolment platform

6 steps to register for vaccination if you are 60 years or older:

STEP 1



Make sure you have internet access

STEP 2



You will need a smartphone, a tablet or a computer

STEP 3



Connect to the internet and go to

<https://vaccine.enroll.health.gov.za/#/>

STEP 4



The welcome screen will tell you what to do next.

STEP 5



Follow the instructions Put in all the details the system asks for

STEP 6



When you are done the system will send an SMS to the phone number you provided. This SMS will tell you that you are registered. This means that the system now has you in the queue.

When it is your turn to be vaccinated, the system will send you another SMS with a date and the venue for your vaccination.

If you put in the correct address, you will be sent to the vaccination centre that is closest to your home

#IChooseVaccination

Should you encounter problems during the registration process contact the COVID-19 hotline 0800 029 999

JOURNEY OF A VACCINE

The COVID-19 vaccine, like all vaccines, travels a long journey, before it is given to you. That is to make sure that it is safe and powerful enough to fight COVID-19. It is a journey that starts in a laboratory and ends with an injection in your arm. Here is how the vaccine made its way to South Africa.



The COVID-19 vaccine began life in a laboratory.

Scientists from all over the world worked together to get it right.



The vaccine is tested very carefully for safety in the laboratory.

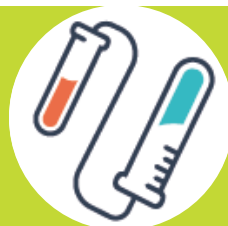


The vaccine is tested on humans.

Many volunteers from across the world were given the vaccine to test if it is safe and works properly.



The results are sent to international medical approval bodies to be 100% sure.



The vaccines are sent to a factory to produce.

This can take up to 3 months.

The vaccines are checked again for quality.



The vaccines are put into special clean bottles at the factory.



The vaccines are now ready to be transported



The vaccines are kept cold on the long journey to South Africa.



The vaccines land in SA.



The vaccine is transported by a cold storage truck to Bloemfontein.





Here it is tested again by our scientists for quality and safety.

This can take between 10-14 days.



The vaccines are transported in refrigerated vehicles to hospitals, pharmacies, and other vaccination sites.



Trained staff make sure they are stored correctly and are ready for the patients.



The vaccine is put into a syringe and injected into the upper arm of the patient.



The vaccine gets to work. It protects you by fighting the Coronavirus.

THE FACTS

JOHNSON & JOHNSON AND PFIZER

How many shots do you need?

Johnson & Johnson - 1
Pfizer - 2, 21 days apart

How is the shot given?

Both are given in the muscle
of the upper arm

What are the side effects?

For both:
In the arm:
pain
redness
swelling
Throughout the rest of the
body:
tiredness
headache
muscle pain
chills
fever
nausea

Who can get the vaccine?

Johnson & Johnson - people 18
and older

Safety data for Johnson & Johnson

Side effects common within 7 days of
getting vaccinated, mostly mild to
moderate

Safety data for Pfizer

Side effects common within 7 days of
getting vaccinated, mostly mild to
moderate

Side effects more common after the
second shot

Small number of people had severe
side effects that affected their ability
to do daily activities



National Department of Health
Dr AB Xuma Building
1112 Voortrekker Road
Pretoria Townlands 351-JR
Pretoria
0187