

COVID-19

Vaccination Programme

Communications priorities

25 – 31 October 2021

This report is for communicators promoting the uptake of the Covid-19 vaccination programme. We hope it will help guide you as you shape communication to best suit your audience.

HEADLINES FOR THIS WEEK

Key Messages

If you're fifty or older, Covid-19 vaccination is particularly for you!

- Three out of every five people aged fifty and older are either fully vaccinated or have had their first Pfizer dose. Let's make it 5/5 by the end of the year.
- If we do, we'll stop 4 out of 5 deaths from Covid-19 that will otherwise happen during the next wave.
- And vaccinating those under fifty will build our nation's overall immunity.

Calling all organ donors and recipients to get vaccinated

- If you're an organ donor or recipient, Covid-19 vaccination is safe and will protect you.
- The SA Transplant Society and the Ministerial Advisory Committee on Organ Transplantation (MACOT) call on all organ donors and recipients, as well as all staff involved with organ transplantation, to be vaccinated against Covid-19.
- The same applies to people taking long-term oral steroid therapy or systemic biologics for autoimmune conditions, have haematological and immune malignancies, are on renal dialysis, or have a primary immunodeficiency disorder (PID). If you've been vaccinated, you'll be eligible for booster doses from 30 November 2021.
- Speak to your doctor, who has access to all the right information.

Want the Contact Centre to call you back with help and advice?

- You can now request a call back from an agent at the Contact Centre through the WhatsApp Support line (0600 123456). You can ask at any time, and will be called back during normal operating hours.
- Type **MENU**, then select **HELP**.
- From the **HELP** menu choose **SUPPORT**.
- From **SUPPORT**, select **CALL ME BACK** and follow the prompts for Name, which number to use.
- You can also use this link: <https://wa.me/27600123456?text=support>
- You will get a message confirming that you'll be called back.

Reinforce Previous Messages

- If you missed your Covid-19 vaccination appointment or your second dose date, it's OK. You can still come get it anywhere and anytime.
- Now 12 to 17 year-olds can get one dose of the Pfizer vaccination. You can register when you get there.
- Booster doses are to be made available for people with certain co-morbidities. Any questions? Call 0800 029 999.

Your digital Vaccination Certificate anytime and anywhere



Log onto <https://vaccine.certificate.health.gov.za> from any device 24/7
You'll need your vaccination code and your ID, Passport, or Asylum or refugee Number.

Changed your cell number, lost your vaccination code or need any assistance?

Call 0800 029 999 or email info@vaccinesupport.org.za

Progress with the Vaccination Rollout

Progress by 21 October 2021



	At least one dose	%	Fully vaccinated	%
% Total pop.	14,568,927	24.2%	11,346,972	18.8%
% Adult pop.	14,568,927	36.6%	11,346,972	28,5%
60+	3,416,083	62.0%	2,946,983	53,5%
50-59	2,636,428	54.7%	2,236,256	46,4%
18-49	8,494,779	28.8%	6,160,808	20,9%

You can now check vaccination numbers per district at <https://sacoronavirus.co.za/latest-vaccine-statistics/>

Call to get Vaccinated

Calling all organ donors and recipients to get vaccinated

The SA Transplant Society and the Ministerial Advisory Committee on Organ Transplantation (MACOT), call on all organ donors and recipients, as well as all staff involved with organ transplantation, to be vaccinated against Covid-19, if they are not already. Vaccination is safe and protective for organ donors and recipients.

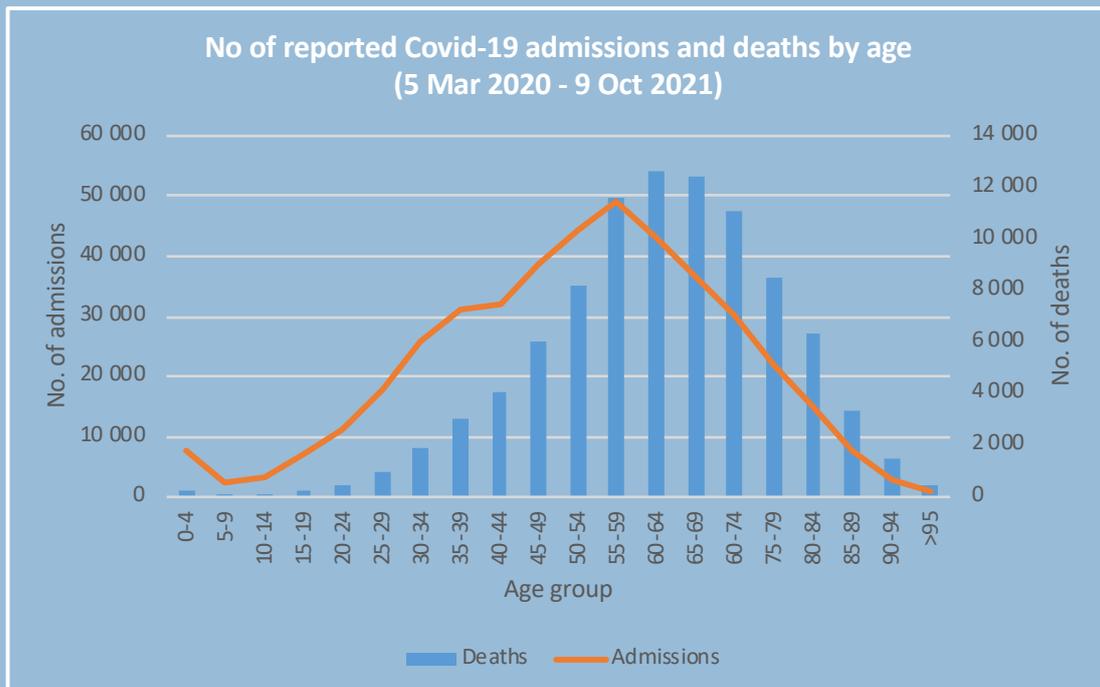
The Vaccine Ministerial Advisory Committee has already issued an advisory for additional doses (“booster shots”) for immunocompromised people, which includes “those taking long-term oral steroid therapy or systemic biologics for autoimmune conditions, have haematological and immune malignancies, receive solid organ and bone marrow transplants, on renal dialysis, or have a primary immunodeficiency disorder (PID).” Booster shots will become available from 30 November 2021 and people with these conditions should speak to their doctors, who have been provided with the specific information to ensure they receive the best health care advice.

Focus on the fifties plus

Even as we have opened up vaccination to 12-17 year olds – especially so that those with co-morbidities or who would like to get vaccinated can do so – our focus must remain on people aged 50 and older. Since the start of the pandemic in South Africa, three fifths (58.4%) of Covid-19 hospitalisations and four-fifths (81.5%) of confirmed Covid-19 deaths have been among people aged fifty and older.

With the 4th wave likely to hit around the end of the year, it is critical that we vaccinate over 85% of the 4.3 million people aged fifty and older who have not been vaccinated. The good news is that close to three out of five people 50+ (58.6%) have already been vaccinated. Now we need to urge and enable the other two out of five to come forward before the 4th wave.

1 National Institute of Communicable Diseases Covid-19 Weekly Hospital Surveillance Update Week 40 20210. <https://www.nicd.ac.za/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/COVID-19-Weekly-Epidemiology-Brief-week-40-2021.pdf>



Contact Centre

Please continue to promote the email service and online support form. This is especially useful for information update queries where supporting documentation needs to be collected and can also be used for all general vaccination programme queries that the contact centre usually handles: info@vaccinesupport.org.za or <https://sacoronavirus.co.za/evds/support/>

COMMUNICATIONS HIERARCHY FOR 25 – 31 OCTOBER

WHAT	<p>If you're fifty or older, Covid-19 vaccination is particularly for you!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three out of every five people aged fifty and older are either fully vaccinated or have had their first Pfizer dose. Let's make it 5/5 by the end of the year. • If we do, we'll stop 4 out of 5 deaths from Covid-19 that will otherwise happen during the next wave. • And vaccinating the rest of us, too, will build our nation's overall immunity. <p>Calling all organ donors and recipients to get vaccinated</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you're an organ donor or recipient, Covid-19 vaccination is safe and will protect you. • The SA Transplant Society and the Ministerial Advisory Committee on Organ Transplantation (MACOT) call on all organ donors and recipients, as well as all staff involved with organ transplantation, to be vaccinated against Covid-19. • The same applies to people taking long-term oral steroid therapy or systemic biologics for autoimmune conditions, have haematological and immune malignancies, are on renal dialysis, or have a primary immunodeficiency disorder (PID). If you've been vaccinated, you'll be eligible for booster doses from 30 November 2021. • Speak to your doctor, who has access to all the right information. 	
WHY	<p>The vaccine is safe and protects you from getting very sick or dying from Covid-19. If you're over fifty, it's most important that you go now because you have the highest risk.</p> <p>There have been no deaths in South Africa as a result of Covid-19 vaccination. A few people have come for vaccination without realising they already have Covid-19, and have died soon afterwards – but they died from Covid-19 infection and not from the vaccination.</p> <p>The vaccine does not cause sexual problems or infertility. But if you catch Covid-19, you could experience these problems until you recover fully. It's another good reason to be vaccinated right away!</p>	
WHO	<p>Any person in South Africa aged 12 and above should go get vaccinated right away.</p> <p>It is also safe for pregnant women to get vaccinated at any stage of pregnancy.</p> <p>It's your choice. Government is not forcing anybody to get vaccinated, but would like everyone to understand its benefits to them, their families and communities.</p>	<p>It's for men and women, SA citizens and people living in SA from other countries. At present, the system doesn't allow foreign nationals and people without ID's or other identity documentation to register. But we're working on it.</p> <p>Undocumented people are being vaccinated in pilot sites in eThekweni, Tshwane and the City of Cape Town. We will grow the number of sites in these provinces and expand to other provinces in the coming weeks.</p>
WHERE	<p>You can visit any vaccination site at a government health facility or a private pharmacy or health facility. Even if you don't have medical aid, you can go to a private facility and you won't have to pay.</p>	<p>Not all health facilities or pharmacies are vaccination sites. You can find out where your closest site is by visiting https://sacoronavirus.co.za/active-vaccination-sites/ or calling the National Covid-19 hotline on 0800 029 999. The call is free.</p>
HOW	<p>IT WILL SAVE YOU TIME IF YOU REGISTER FIRST</p> <p>It will save you time if you register before you go, so that your details are already in the system.</p> <p>Phone 0800 029 999 tollfree OR</p> <p>USSD: Dial *134*832*IDnumber#</p> <p>No ID no? Just dial *134*832#</p> <p>WhatsApp: Send "Register" to 0600 123 456</p> <p>Online: https://vaccine.enroll.health.gov.za/</p> <p>But you can still just walk in. You may just have to wait a bit longer.</p> <p><u>If you have access to the Internet, you can now choose when and where to get vaccinated.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Once you are registered, you can choose when and where to get vaccinated or change your vaccination appointment. • Go to https://vaccine.booking.health.gov.za <p>Once you are fully vaccinated, you can download your Vaccination Certificate from https://vaccine.certificate.health.gov.za/</p>	<p>If you register, you will get an SMS telling you where and when to go to get vaccinated.</p> <p>But you don't have to wait for the SMS. Just go to your nearest vaccination site.</p> <p>Getting vaccinated is easy.</p> <p>When you get to the vaccination site, a nurse will take your temperature to check that you don't have Covid-19. If you do, you'll be asked to come back in a month when it's safer for you and for all the other people in the queue.</p> <p>If your temperature is normal, you'll be invited to join the queue to be vaccinated. When you do, you'll feel just a small prick in your arm. Afterwards you'll be asked to stay for 15 minutes just to make sure you have no side effects.</p>
WHAT IF	<p>It is normal to have some side effects</p> <p>A few hours after the vaccine you might feel like you've got a bad 'flu, with fevers and headaches and chills. But it goes away after day or so.</p>	<p>If you're worried or feel short of breath or your heart is racing, feel free to call the Covid-19 hotline 0800 029 999 for advice.</p>
<p>If you have any questions, call the COVID-19 hotline on 0800 029 999.</p>		

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