



Friday, 23 April 2021

Media release

B4SA urges those over 60 to register for COVID-19 vaccine

- Vaccine registration system—Electronic Vaccination Data System (EVDS)— is now live.
- Phase 2 will commence on 17 May 2021 with vaccinations for over 60s.
- Business should encourage and assist staff over 60 to register now.

People over 60 can now register on the government's vaccine registration system—Electronic Vaccination Data System (EVDS). B4SA urges all of those in this category to do so.

Martin Kingston, Chairman, B4SA Steering Committee, said it was critical that all people over 60 register now. "We call on all businesses, large and small, to help," said Kingston. "On our farms, in our factories, in retail or in services, every business knows who on their staff is over 60 years old. We appeal to all employers to please encourage your staff over 60 to register and assist them in doing so if they don't have access to the internet or smartphones. Vaccination will save lives and help us rebuild our livelihoods."

There is sound science behind prioritising age. According to B4SA's Dr Guni Goolab, the benefits of vaccinating according to age were backed by a National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD) study. "The numbers in the report speak for themselves: over the last year, almost 80% of hospital admissions and more than 90% of mortality risk due to COVID-19 were among the those over 40. However, those most at risk are the over 60s – almost 60% of COVID-19 mortalities were in this age group," he said. "Hence we are starting with over the over 60s for Phase 2 because they are most at risk."

Kingston confirmed South Africa has secured enough stock to vaccinate the entire over 60 population. "The government and B4SA are readying thousands of health and workplace vaccination sites and identifying further mass vaccination sites to allow us to scale up to administer hundreds of thousands of vaccinations daily," he said. "We urge everyone—corporate, institutional, faith-based groups and individuals—to encourage those over 60 to register on the EVDS. It is a crucial component of the efforts to stem the coronavirus. It must be done if we are to win this battle."

Phase 2 of South Africa's national vaccination programme will commence on 17 May 2021 and start with over 60s. All over 60s are encouraged to register.

Here is the link to the EVDS registration portal: Here is the link to the EVDS registration portal: <https://vaccine.enroll.health.gov.za>

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Issued by Business for South Africa