



B4SA: Weekly Update 22 May 2021

You will undoubtedly have followed developments over the past few days related to the South African COVID-19 vaccine acquisition and rollout programme. Colleagues will be aware that we established the B4SA vaccine platform to provide up-to-date information on bilateral and multilateral engagements with government, hopefully enabling businesses to respond to the latest news.

Dear B4SA and healthcare colleagues,

Since last year, business has worked with the National Department of Health and our colleagues in the Solidarity Fund to create the capacity to vaccinate the nation. Vaccination is the best health policy, it is the best social policy, and it is the best economic policy.

Our ability to return to our way of life and ensure the economy is back on an optimal growth path depends on successfully implementing the vaccination rollout strategy and bringing all of our collective resources to bear.

The launch on Monday of Phase 2 of our national vaccination programme marked a critical turning point in our 14-month fight against COVID-19. In addition to targeting the balance of the health care workers, we started with the most vulnerable, our 5.4 million over 60s, so that they can all be vaccinated by mid-winter. As soon as possible, we will extend the vaccination programme to the balance of our adult population.

We have mobilised vaccination sites throughout the country, including hospitals, pharmacies, clinics and medical practices, occupational health and safety sites across many sectors and larger facilities. Business has also ensured that we have the people to operate those sites across many disciplines and competencies.

This is the start of a massive national effort. We ask for your support and cooperation. Everyone needs to play their part—to get registered, help others register, and get vaccinated as and when directed to do so.

Here is the link to register—[here is the link](#).

B4SA is proud to work alongside and in support of the Government as they oversee the rollout of the vaccination programme. The work business is doing is part of the national effort and at no cost to the country.

On a personal note, I received my vaccination on Monday, for which I am grateful. I call on all to encourage registration and vaccination. It's free, it's safe, and it will enable our country to achieve its full potential.

Stay safe—register if you are over 60, and tell and help others to do the same .

Martin Kingston, Chairman, B4SA Steering Committee







Total vaccinations: 597 406 (as of 20 May 2021)

[More statistics here](#)

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



**REGISTER FOR
YOUR VACCINATION**

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



Registration and your medical aid

Medical aids MUST communicate to their membership that they have to register on the EVDS platform. Registering on your medical aid portal is not enough. You must register on the [EVDS portal](#) above as well.

The impact

As of 21 May, the cumulative number of COVID-19 cases identified in South Africa is 1 625 003. The total number of deaths stands at 55 568.

Government Communication: Vaccination Toolkit

The government has released a free Vaccination Communications Toolkit for use by all interested parties wanting to contribute to the communications efforts against COVID-19 and in support of vaccination and registration.

[Access it here.](#)

QR Code link to EVDS registration site

The QR code below links directly to the EVDS registration site. Please use it in any print or applicable marketing material to help spread the message.

Users simply need to open the camera app on their mobile phone and point it at the code. A notification will open on the phone taking them directly to the site to register.





A SUMMARY OF THE PRESENTATION TO MEDIA BY MARTIN KINGSTON [FRIDAY, 21 MAY 2021]

B4SA Vaccination Rollout

Media Briefing

21 May 2021



Agenda



Presentation

Martin Kingston



Q&A

Timothy Shultz (Facilitator)

Martin Kingston

Cas Coovadia

Ayanda Ntsaluba

Maia Surmava

Ronald Whelan

Lungi Nyathi



Executive Summary

- 1. The official launch of the mass vaccination programme was 17 May**
 - The programme is starting off at a small pace but plans to ramp up over the coming weeks
 - ~117k people were vaccinated in the first four days of the rollout and is scaling up
- 2. Business and government have worked closely to execute on the COVID-19 vaccine program**
 - The working and meeting structures between B4SA and Government are focused on jointly debottlenecking issues and fast-tracking progress
 - A war room has been set up to ensure that there is a more speedy response to issues that arise in the early stages of the rollout
- 3. The mass vaccine rollout programme aims to cover the most vulnerable groups first**
 - The aim is to vaccinate all 40 million South African adults
 - We will start with the 5.4 million >60s to ensure they are vaccinated before mid-Winter
 - This will reduce the burden on our healthcare system and prevent up to 40,000 deaths
 - We have secured the vaccine supply for this (45 million doses over the year)
 - The Electronic Vaccine Delivery System (EVDS) is live and sites have started using it to report on vaccination progress
- 4. A lot of work has been done. However, there are a few key risks that must be mitigated**
 - We will put in place mitigating actions for all risks that are in our control
- 5. We all need to rally around this common and important national agenda**
 - This is the largest vaccination rollout in our country's history, and is critical for our health, our healthcare system and economic recovery

There was a smooth start to the mass vaccination programme and we are working to scale it up

Key statistics from Day 4 of the rollout

155 Public sites were
vaccinating

22 Private sites were
vaccinating

117k People vaccinated

~1.6mn Over 60s registered

More needs to be done to scale up the programme

South Africa started off with small numbers but plans to scale up capacity significantly in the coming days and weeks

More needs to be done to scale up the programme, including

- Getting more people to register for vaccines
- Getting more vaccination sites onboarded to get more jabs in arms quicker
- Ensuring that EVDS works well to allow vaccination sites to work more efficiently and provide more accurate and frequent reporting
- Finalising the funding mechanisms, particularly for uninsured patients



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The public and private sectors continue to work collaboratively to deliver on the vaccination programme



Multiple joint working groups are executing on the critical path

B4SA and the government have created 5 workstreams...



...which report to the Joint Strategic Oversight Committee

Objective of the Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have overview of the work across the workstreams and the critical path Unblock bottlenecks arising in each of the workstreams
Membership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NDoH DG (Co-chair) and team B4SA Leadership and workstream leads
Meeting cadence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2x sessions/day
Agenda item	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tracking critical path

A war room has been setup, consisting of B4SA and NDoH representatives to

- Update on progress on the dashboard
- Review throughput and root cause for any gaps identified
- Media monitoring update
- Key action items and other

Notable progress has been made to kick start the vaccination programme and we continue to work to close out on some open items



Workstream	Key achievements to date	Key items to close out
Finance and Funding flows 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Costing model for the rollout has been developed Vaccine price, administration fees and payments processes defined and agreed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalising the funding mechanism to ensure that the rollout is equitable
Information and Data Management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Released the EVDS to public for registrations of over 60s Sites have been trained on EVDS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalising the reporting and dashboards to keep track of vaccination progress
Service Delivery Platforms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~480k Healthcare workers were vaccinated through the Sisonke programme ~177 sites are live and will ramp up to ~200 this week 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accelerating registration and curation process of sites and setting up workplace and mass vaccination sites in the coming weeks
Supply, Allocation and Delivery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Securing supply of doses sufficient for 47mn lives Stratifying the population at a ward level across age, & medical coverage Concluded a distribution tender and developing distribution plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Streamlining the ordering process to ensure that site receive stock timeously
Stakeholder Engagement, Communications and Advocacy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National communication campaign is underway with toolkits available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Executing communications plans to drive the registration rate of the elderly

View the full media briefing [here](#)



News reports of interest

The weeks news, government announcements and interesting reading:

Top Stories

South Africa's health care workers who've already received the J&J jab may be getting a booster shot. <https://www.news24.com/fin24/companies/health/vaccinated-sa-health-workers-may-get-booster-shot-20210520>

Bhekisisa's Mia Malan gets to grips with the nitty-gritties of how the EVDS scheduling system works. <https://bhekisisa.org/article/2021-05-20-how-long-will-you-wait-for-a-covid-vaccination-appointment-we-answer-your-evds-questions/>

COVID-19 numbers are a concern in Gqeberha (formerly Port Elizabeth) as the Nelson Mandela Bay metro reports 154 active cases: the highest number in the Eastern Cape. <https://www.iol.co.za/news/south-africa/eastern-cape/nelson-mandela-bay-metro-urges-caution-as-covid-19-cases-rise-55a8f035-145d-5d7c-acca-f90a284f34b7>

You know someone who got the jab and still got Covid-19: here's why. <https://ewn.co.za/2021/05/19/analysis-here-s-why-some-fully-vaccinated-people-will-still-get-infected>

Interesting Reading

WC Gov't takes over SMS communication on appointment dates and venues <https://www.news24.com/news24/southafrica/news/western-cape-govt-to-now-send-covid-19-vaccine-smses-to-make-process-more-accessible-20210520>

Mediclinic releases list of vax hospitals <https://www.news24.com/fin24/companies/these-mediclinic-hospitals-will-start-vaccinations-next-week-20210520>

WHO advisory: vaccines work but overseas travel not advised <https://www.news24.com/news24/world/news/who-vaccines-stop-variants-but-overseas-travel-still-not-safe-20210520>

Study from UCT & Groote Schuur: Seriously ill Covid patients in Africa more likely to die than other nations <https://ewn.co.za/2021/05/21/africa-has-much-higher-mortality-rate-for-very-ill-covid-patients-study>

HCWs will get booster shot in next few weeks (ImmunityBio's hAds T-cell booster) <https://www.news24.com/fin24/companies/health/vaccinated-sa-health-workers-may-get-booster-shot-20210520>

UK first to trail booster shot



<https://news.sky.com/story/amp/worlds-first-clinical-trial-on-covid-booster-vaccines-launched-in-uk-12311108>

Gauteng Health MEC tests positive for Covid (received her shot in Feb, not displaying severe symptoms)

<https://citizen.co.za/news/covid-19/2493966/vaccinated-gauteng-health-mec-tests-positive-for-covid-19/>

Durban opens 16 vax sites

<https://www.news24.com/witness/news/durban/durban-opens-16-vaccination-sites-20210518>

18 sites are open in WC: <https://ewn.co.za/2021/05/19/18-vaccination-sites-now-operational-in-cape-town>

Good EVDS Q&A by the brilliant Mia Malan from

Bhekisisa: <https://bhekisisa.org/article/2021-05-20-how-long-will-you-wait-for-a-covid-vaccination-appointment-we-answer-your-evds-questions/>

Nelson Mandela Bay cases increase: <https://www.iol.co.za/news/south-africa/eastern-cape/nelson-mandela-bay-metro-urges-caution-as-covid-19-cases-rise-55a8f035-145d-5d7c-acc4-f90a284f34b7>

Zimbabwe seeing Indian variant cases (will impose quarantine and tests for all arrivals from India): <https://www.news24.com/news24/africa/news/zimbabwe-reports-first-cases-of-coronavirus-variant-from-india-20210519>

Liberty's retrenchment claims increase sixfold: <https://www.timeslive.co.za/news/south-africa/2021-05-20-lockdown-retrenchments-increase-six-fold-as-covid-19-lockdowns-bite/>

Gov't / NCCC meeting this week to discuss lockdown measures for W3

<https://businesstech.co.za/news/trending/491835/ramaphosa-says-no-decision-yet-on-harder-lockdown-for-south-africa/>

India surpasses US as highest death rate in the world

<https://www.businessinsider.co.za/trending/india-coronavirus-daily-death-toll-break-global-record-2021-5>

Malawi, South Sudan destroying vaccines (expiry date issues from COVAX stock, Malawi had a public burning of their vaccines yesterday)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/56940657.amp>

On why people still get infected after the jab

<https://ewn.co.za/2021/05/19/analysis-here-s-why-some-fully-vaccinated-people-will-still-get-infected>

10 reasons why young people (>20) need to get vaccinated

<https://edition.cnn.com/2021/05/05/health/young-people-covid-vaccine/index.html>



Sanofi closer to vaccine success: in 2nd trial, 2 doses show 95-100% efficacy. Third, final trial will be in late May, early June and will test against Chinese and SA variants
<https://medicalxpress.com/news/2021-05-left-behind-sanofi-covid-vaccine.html>

FS hospitals under pressure from rising cases and protests
<https://www.timeslive.co.za/news/south-africa/2021-05-18-rising-covid-19-load-and-protests-put-free-state-hospitals-under-strain/>

Concerns over short notice given to get to vaccination sites (e.g. SMS at 10 pm to get to a vaccination site at 8 am, could be problematic for elderly)
<https://www.iol.co.za/news/south-africa/western-cape/elderly-scramble-to-get-to-vaccination-points-after-receiving-late-night-smses-16fc72a6-41e6-4982-9238-5fc0a1b4dc5f>

KZN records 0 deaths
<https://www.iol.co.za/news/south-africa/kwazulu-natal/kzn-records-zero-covid-19-deaths-decline-in-active-cases-23656945-6694-4daf-ad4f-1ce42560afb5>

In a bizarre turn of events, Texas bans mask wearing
<https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2021-05-19-texas-bans-local-mask-mandates-south-africa-registers-2355-new-cases/>

UK vaccination programme – 2/3 of country have received first dose (and they are bringing the second dose forward because of Indian variant concerns). Also, vaccination acceleration is leading to restrictions being lifted
<https://medicalxpress.com/news/2021-05-covid-vaccines-uk-lockdown.html>

Covid-linked multi-system inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C) undercounted in the USA
<https://www.businesslive.co.za/bd/world/americas/2021-05-18-covid-linked-often-fatal-inflammatory-syndrome-in-children-undercounted-in-us/>

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OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS AND GUIDELINES ON COVID-19

All official government regulations and guidelines are available at
<https://www.gov.za/coronavirus/guidelines>

OFFICIAL RESOURCES:



NICD website: <http://www.nicd.ac.za>
COVID-19 information website: <https://sacoronavirus.co.za>
Coronavirus 24-hour Hotline: 0800 029 999
Coronavirus WhatsApp: 060 012 3456

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

www.gov.za
www.facebook.com/GovernmentZA
twitter.com/GovernmentZA
www.youtube.com/user/GovernmentZA
sacoronavirus.co.za
sacoronavirus.co.za/tag/vaccine-toolkits/
twitter.com/COVID_19_ZA
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