



B4SA: Weekly Update 03 July 2021

B4SA remains committed to providing its members and any other interested parties with up-to-date COVID-19 and vaccination rollout information, from bilateral and multilateral engagements with Government and other key stakeholders.

Highlights from today's newsletter:

- Message from B4SA Steerco Chair, Martin Kingston
- Good ventilation is one of the most important factors in fighting Covid-19
- Early data shows good efficacy of the Pfizer jab, even after just one dose

READ MORE BELOW

Dear B4SA and business colleagues,

This week's newsletter comes with excellent news – that early data is already showing a drop in infections, admissions and mortality at 21 days after vaccinees have received their first Pfizer-BioNtech doses.

More good news is that we now have adequate vaccines for the month of July, which means we are no longer operating in a vaccine-constrained environment for the immediate future. Although we have no visibility on supply schedules from either J&J or Pfizer for the balance of Q3, the total committed supplies will enable us to significantly increase vaccination levels. In addition, the recent announcement that the US will be sending us a million doses of the Pfizer vaccine is heartening.

On a final note, at B4SA we are deeply saddened by the tragic death from COVID-19 of Rob Legh, chairman of Bowmans and former head of B4SA's labour market intervention workstream.

In 2020 Rob was instrumental in helping unlocking tens of billions of rand of emergency UIF funding during last year's lock-down. Millions of workers and tens of thousands of businesses benefited.

As a B4SA volunteer and leader, Rob exemplified the call to national duty that characterises the best of South Africa's response to Covid-19. He was a husband, father, lawyer, leader – and friend.

Our prayers and thoughts are with his family and loved ones.

Martin Kingston, Chairman, B4SA Steering Committee



B4SA NEWS

Early data shows first Pfizer vaccine dose has promising protective effects

Just six weeks into South Africa's COVID-19 vaccination programme rollout, early data aligns with global evidence that even after just one dose of the Pfizer-BioNtech vaccine, there is a lower incidence of new COVID-19 infections and hospital admissions – and no deaths among vaccinated individuals so far.

The data comes via Discovery's tracking of 110,000 vaccinated scheme members aged 60 and older, when compared to a comparable cohort of unvaccinated members.

At least 21 days after the first dose, the data showed:

- A 34% lower incidence of new COVID-19 infections;
- A 47% lower rate of admission to hospital to treat COVID-19 related complications; and
- No deaths.

Those who have been vaccinated are cautioned that it is possible to contract COVID-19 – and infect others – after being vaccinated, so keeping shared spaces well-ventilated, masking, social distancing and hand sanitising measures must be maintained.

Ventilation and equitable access to vaccines are top priority

On Friday afternoon, B4SA hosted a Business Communicators' Forum with a range of leaders and experts to explain and discuss the progress of the vaccination rollout, the process SAHPRA follows to approve new vaccines for use in SA, the role and risk of airborne Covid-19 infections and how business can work with the National Department of Health to inform and mobilise staff, customers and communities to support vaccination.

After an overview by Martin Kingston, Dr Boitumelo Semete-Makokotlela, CEO of the South African Health Products Regulator (SAHPRA) outlined the role of the regulator in approving new vaccines.

Good ventilation vital to fight Covid-19

Next, Sean Chester and Garth Hunter from the GreenFlag Association looked at why ventilation is now one of the most significant determinants of risk for the airborne transmission of COVID-19, and is an often overlooked and poorly understood risk reduction measure.

Looking at the evidence for airborne transmission, they explained that companies should be measuring ventilation levels in their workspaces and ensuring that messaging conveys the importance of fresh air to fight COVID-19 transmission, to ensure that indoor spaces are as safe as reasonably possible.



Closing the gap between registration and uptake

David Harrison, CEO, DG Murray Trust, is working with the National Department of Health (NDoH) to mobilise vaccination in a way that doesn't leave the already marginalised at a greater disadvantage. In his presentation, David explained that people in these communities always have poorer outcomes, and this is already playing out in South Africa.

However, there are ways that businesses can work with the NDoH to mobilise vaccination and prevent fall-off between registration and vaccination – which tends to be higher in poorer communities.

This fall-off must be prevented in order to get us over the bar of herd immunity, and that means we all have a role to play in both highlighting the value of vaccination, and finding ways to mitigate the opportunity cost, since factors such as income, place of residence, disability and nationality can all be important barriers to vaccination.

The webinar recording and presentations will soon be available on the B4SA website.

B4SA webinar details practical ways employers can augment vaccine rollout

On Wednesday, 20 June, B4SA latest information sharing webinar featured Boston Consulting Group (BCG) managing director and senior partner, Anthony Oundjian, who addressed the role employers can play in vaccination programmes.

BCG global experience shows that employers are playing a key role in many developing markets in complementing, augmenting and even accelerating national vaccination efforts.

Anthony presented data highlighting that vaccination programmes face region-specific challenges as they roll out, but that across the board, the evidence was clear that vaccines work to reduce transmission, severe illness, hospitalisation and death.

He said employers had two key roles to play: encouraging uptake and supporting beneficiaries' vaccination journeys by minimising barriers to vaccination, and emphasised communicating the important message that vaccination is the path back to a normal life.

He added that employers should aim to augment government capacity, pointing out that the better the throughput of vaccine delivery, the more likely donations from programmes like COVAX would be – as most of those organisations wanted to ensure that vaccines would be used and not wasted.

Finally, he presented a framework that South African companies could use and adapt to support vaccine rollout to their employees and broader communities, and discussed simple interventions and incentives that could help to remove barriers to vaccination.

The presentation can be accessed [here](#).



SAHPRA says three more Covid-19 vaccines are being reviewed

The South African Health Products Regulatory Authority (SAHPRA) announced on Thursday that in addition to the authorisations for AstraZeneca, Pfizer and Johnson & Johnson vaccines, it was currently reviewing applications for three more: Sinovac, which was at an advanced stage, Sinopharm and Sputnik V.

SAPHRA said in a [statement](#) it was deeply dismayed at recent, unfounded allegations that it was dragging its heels on registering COVID-19 vaccines. In fact, staff had been working around the clock to reduce the time taken to register COVID-19 vaccines to less than three months, rather than the usual average of 20 months – while still continuing to adhere to strict guidelines to ensure the safety of South Africans.

Upcoming: Vaccination site manager information session

Vaccine sites, both in the public and private sector, have been on a steep learning curve since the vaccine rollout began on 17 May, and B4SA, in collaboration with the National Department of Health, is hosting an ongoing series of webinars for site managers to provide a platform for updates, technical queries, and sharing of best practice and solutions to common challenges.

Sessions are 90 minutes long, from 6.30pm, and the first session is this Monday, 5 July.

To join the session, visit: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86215739381>

Cricket influencers step up to the crease

B4SA has arranged a great series of short videos featuring some of South Africa's top cricketers, designed for sharing on social media platforms. The videos feature Lungi Ngidi, Graeme Smith, Dean Elgar, Kagiso Rabada and Sinalo Jafta talking about the vaccine rollout and supporting vaccination – please share them in your own circles of influence if you see them.

LATEST STATISTICS

COVID-19 Statistics as at 2 July 2021



BUSINESS FOR SA | COVID-19

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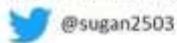
COVID - 19 STATISTICS IN SOUTH AFRICA

02 July 2021

#	Province	Cases last 14 days	Cases		Deaths		Vaccines(Pfizer + J&J)		Current Hospital Numbers		
			Total	New	Total	New	Total	New	Admitted	ICU	Ventilated
1	Gauteng	139 676	676 524	+14 224	17 569	+194	756 793	+27 738	7 840(+325)	1 351(+9)	735(+7)
2	W. Cape	21 830	327 498	+2 607	12 472	+39	469 236	+20 132	1 938(+16)	336(+4)	145(+7)
3	North West	13 719	98 809	+1 655	2 635	+29	167 229	+7 367	869(-28)	89(+3)	50(-1)
4	KZN	11 869	357 528	+1 681	11 268	0	736 069	+31 257	974(+35)	162(+16)	66(+5)
5	Limpopo	10 223	78 881	+1 424	2 993	+25	391 685	+19 226	370(+7)	40(+7)	32(+1)
6	Mpumalanga	9 475	96 935	+1 183	2 844	+10	161 383	+6 387	406(+18)	97(-3)	46(+2)
7	E. Cape	6 594	208 262	+652	11 920	+18	394 827	+16 695	459(+10)	72(+13)	70(+4)
8	Free State	6 357	115 771	+556	5 047	+6	169 658	+5 711	580(-28)	82(+5)	67(-7)
9	N. Cape	3 494	59 618	+288	1 396	+4	45 791	+2 441	315	34(-2)	47(+3)
TOTAL		223 237	2 019 826	24 270	68 144	325	3 292 671	136 954	13751(+355)	2 263(+52)	1 258(+21)

New tests	Tests and positivity for the previous 7 days							Recoveries	
88 738	Th:76 071	W:70 593	Tu:50 932	M:43 155	Su:55 920	Sa:70 067	F:73 709	Total	New
27.4%	28.4%	27.6%	26.2%	28.3%	26.9%	25.6%	25.5%	1 773 930	+19 137

Source: NICD and Department of Health



HELPFUL LINKS

NDoH allocation modelling guidance for sites

On July 1, the NDoH published a guidance note for all private sector vaccination sites on allocation modelling to ensure the supply chain works at its best. You can find it [here](#).

Revised COVID-19 OHS direction for workplaces

The Minister of Employment and Labour gazetted a new, consolidated COVID-19 Direction on Occupational Health and Safety in the Workplace (Revised OHS Direction) on 11 June 2021. The Revised OHS Direction replaces the Direction that was published on 1 October 2020. [Click here](#) to access a copy.

B4SA grateful to businesses registered as primary workplace vaccination sites

B4SA thanks and applauds all businesses registered as a primary workplace vaccination site through the Master Facility List (MFL) process set up by the NDoH. It will certainly assist not



only their employees, but all others able to be accommodated by those sites. This will also help the national effort by relieving pressure on the other public and private sector vaccination sites.

NDoH vaccine price circular

The Department of Health vaccine price circular can be found [here](#).

Reminder: Vaccine appointment scheduling

Please bear in mind that vaccinees need some warning of their vaccination appointments, to enable them to make the necessary transport and scheduling arrangements.

Official NDoH guidance requires sites to provide vaccinees with at least 72 hours' notice between receiving an SMS and presenting themselves to a vaccination site.

We recommend that all sites revise their schedules to seven days forward to allow vaccinees sufficient time to plan for their appointments and assist in the advance allocation of stock.

Active vaccination sites

The Government's SA Coronavirus website has the latest vaccination rollout sites across the country: there were 576 as of 11 June.

To access the list, click [here](#).

The NDoH's vaccine dashboard can be found at: <https://sacoronavirus.co.za/latest-vaccine-statistics/>

REGISTER FOR YOUR VACCINATION

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



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Citizens 50 years and above

6 steps to getting vaccinated

- 1 Register on Electronic Vaccination System (EVDS) on vaccine.eroll.health.gov.za
- 2 The welcome screen will tell you what to do next.
- 3 Follow the instructions. Put in all the details the system asks for.
- 4 When you are done the system will send an SMS to the phone number you provided.
- 5 This SMS will tell you that you are registered.
- 6 When it is your turn to be vaccinated, the system will send you another SMS with a date and the venue for your vaccination

#IChooseVaccination

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

 health
Department of Health
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

 I CHOOSE
Vaccination

 STRIVE
SAFE
PROTECT SOUTH AFRICA

 2030
NDP

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.



V4HCW

Important changes to booking process since Sisonke

There are no separate websites to register—it is all on one site:

<https://bookings.v4hcw.co.za/vax/>

Vaccination Communications 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.](#)

News reports of interest

The weeks news, government announcements and interesting reading:

Top local stories

Deputy Minister of Health Joe Phaahla says South Africa is considering buying AstraZeneca vaccines: <https://www.news24.com/fin24/economy/south-africa/sa-reconsidering-astrazeneca-shots-for-delta-variant-20210701>

J&J says its vaccine shows good efficacy against the delta variant:

https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-07-02/j-j-covid-shot-neutralizes-delta-variant-is-durable-over-time?utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook&utm_content=markets&cmpid=socialflow-facebook-markets&utm_campaign=socialflow-organic&fbclid=IwAR0-7fYTRWjCcM5GedqBKLdP9CsEqClySP-uQSxqgpr-8tVMdoQICFFHTBs



Health DG says only 16m people will be vaccinated by elections, and is concerned over the potential risk: <https://www.timeslive.co.za/sunday-times-daily/politics/2021-07-01-holding-elections-will-put-lives-at-risk-says-health-dg/>

WC third wave surpasses first wave peak (province recording 51% increase week-on-week): <https://www.news24.com/news24/southafrica/news/covid-19-number-of-cases-in-the-western-cape-surpasses-first-wave-peak-20210701>

DA calls on government to partner with private labs amid shortage of test kits: <https://www.news24.com/news24/southafrica/news/gauteng-da-claims-theres-a-shortage-of-covid-19-tests-urges-dept-to-partner-with-private-labs-20210701>

Profmed calls on government to allow the private sector to help vaccinate the country: <https://businesstech.co.za/news/business-opinion/502579/medical-aid-boss-appeals-to-ramaphosa-let-the-private-sector-vaccinate-south-africa/>

Shoprite wants to procure, pay for and administer vaccines: <https://www.businessinsider.co.za/shoprite-urgently-wants-to-vaccinate-its-140000-staff-while-other-workers-get-first-access-2021-6>

Calls strengthen for elections to be moved to May 2022: <https://ewn.co.za/2021/06/29/election-monitoring-groups-echo-calls-for-postponement-of-local-govt-elections>

Dept of Employment, Labour in talks to find money to extend TERS: <https://businesstech.co.za/news/finance/502113/government-in-talks-to-find-money-for-workers-impacted-by-south-africas-level-4-lockdown/>

International

[WHO warns new COVID wave inevitable in Europe as cases rise](#)
[Africa's COVID threat hits 'new level' as Delta variant spreads](#)
[Africa's COVID-19 envoy blasts EU, COVAX over vaccine crisis](#)
[Bangladesh deploys army as strict week-long COVID lockdown begins](#)
[Emergency curbs in Indonesia's Java and Bali amid COVID surge](#)
[WHO decision challenges West to recognize Chinese vaccines](#)
[South Korea reported 800 cases on Thursday for first time in six months](#)
[Australia PM outlines 'pathway out of Covid'](#)



[Indonesia triples oxygen supplies as Covid-19 outbreak worsens](#)
[Spain records surge in Covid cases among unvaccinated young people](#)
[European region Covid cases jump 10% as WHO calls for Euro 2020 monitoring](#)
[Some European nations approve India's Covishield vaccine: Report](#)
[Average number of new infections reported each day in Uganda falls by more than 720 over the last 3 weeks, 50% of its previous peak](#)
[India passes 400,000 reported coronavirus-related deaths](#)

Interesting/useful sites

[Covid Comms is producing infographics, which are available for free download](#)
[Centers for Disease Control, USA](#)
[INFOGRAPHIC: Coronavirus: the new disease Covid-19 explained](#)
[Coronavirus in context: a guide to help you understand the pandemic](#)
[European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control](#)
[Lockdowns compared: tracking governments' coronavirus responses](#)

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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:

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sacoronavirus.co.za/tag/vaccine-toolkits/
twitter.com/COVID_19_ZA
twitter.com/DrZweliMkhize

