


B4SA: Weekly Update 17 August 2021



35 to 49 year olds, register
for your vaccine now

A NOTE FROM MARTIN KINGSTON

Dear B4SA and business colleagues,

With the vaccine supply constraints out of the way, the reason we are not yet vaccinating at a rate of 300,000+ per day is simple: a lack of demand. With the early adopters in each age group having shown up to receive their vaccinations, we now urgently need to drive those who are hesitating, adopting a “wait and see” approach, or who have very real barriers to getting their jabs.

A recent presentation by David Harrison, CEO of the DG Murray Trust, who is working with the NDoH on maintaining demand for the vaccinations, indicated that to save one life, you must vaccinate 400 people over 60, or 40,000 people in the 30-45 years old age band – which confirms the age-related rollout strategy, but which also raises some alarms.

In the 60+ cohort, only 2.94 million of a possible 5.43 million people have received a vaccine – a little over 54%. In the 50-59 years group only about 23.7% have received a vaccine. We need to urgently improve these figures in order to protect those in our society who are most vulnerable to the ravages of COVID-19, even as we support the NDoH’s thinking around opening vaccination to all groups above 18 years sooner rather than later.

We appeal to you again, therefore, to use every resource at your disposal – whether in the

workplace, or the broader community – to ensure we keep the conversation about vaccines alive, and the momentum of our vaccine rollout going.

Martin Kingston, Chair, B4SA Steering Committee



B4SA NEWS

All private sector sites accept walk-ins now

All private sector vaccination sites across South Africa now accept walk-ins from anyone eligible for vaccination, including those without medical aid.

This includes independent community pharmacies, corporate pharmacy chains such as Clicks and Dis-Chem, private hospitals and medical scheme vaccination sites, but excludes workplace sites that are currently vaccinating their staff.



Sites will prioritise those with scheduled appointments and those over the age of 60. Those eligible for vaccination – i.e., anyone over the age of 35 – don't have to register if they are unable to do so, before visiting a site for vaccination, as private sites are equipped with staff to assist walk-ins with the registration process.

A full list of private sector sites can be accessed [here](#).

Call to health practitioners to actively endorse vaccination

Dr Simon Strachan, Prof Morgan Chetty, and Dr Sham Moodley, who co-lead B4SA's Health Service Providers Workstream, have issued a call to all healthcare providers to encourage patients to present themselves for COVID-19 vaccination and do everything in their power to counter misinformation and scare-mongering with evidence.

You can read the full statement [here](#).

Report back: Mental wellness during a pandemic

B4SA hosted an inspiring webinar on 13 August specifically addressing issues of mental wellness during a pandemic. More than 250 people joined the webinar, which was chaired by the South African Depression and Anxiety Group's (SADAG's) operations director, Cassey Chambers.

A panel of experts addressed topics such as:

- Making mental health matter
- How to generate hope in tough times
- Tools to help with anxiety, panic and insomnia
- Burnout and stress-related conditions
- Benefits that can be offered in the office environment to improve staff wellbeing

The panel comprised the following experts:



- Dr Noluthando Nematswerani, head of the Centre for Clinical Excellence at Discovery
- Neil Bierbaum, executive coach and author
- Dr Colinda Linde, clinical psychologist and chairperson of the SADAG board

You can view a recording of the webinar [here](#).

J&J expiry dates extended to 27 September

SAHPRA has extended the expiry of J&J vaccine doses (batches # 208A21A and # 209A21A) to 27 September 2021. This is in line with Janssen's ongoing stability studies and also in line with a July 2021 FDA announcement that J&J vaccine shelf life is extended from 4.5 months, to six months.

The NDOH has requested that vaccination sites continue storing these batches of the vaccine between 2°C and 8°C and to use them until the new expiry date of 27 September 2021.”

The full circular can be found [here](#).

LATEST STATISTICS

COVID-19 Statistics as at 16 August 2021

COVID - 19 STATISTICS IN SOUTH AFRICA

16 August 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 W. Cape	42 021	446 749	+2 119	16 778	+67	1 495 010	+30 334	3 673(-77)	480(-25)	197(-20)
2 KZN	34 395	432 744	+1 949	13 215	+55	1 759 211	+20 551	2 136(+44)	278(-7)	109(+1)
3 Gauteng	25 258	889 777	+694	25 604	+112	2 386 245	+44 896	5 033(-130)	984(-26)	530(-21)
4 E. Cape	15 212	244 410	+1 438	13 198	+15	1 226 011	+23 242	811(+30)	96(+2)	98(+7)
5 Mpumalanga	9 709	136 037	+520	3 869	+19	455 065	+6 353	513(-23)	112(+3)	43(-9)
6 North West	7 698	136 531	+241	3 889	+20	499 157	+7 638	801(-12)	102(-6)	61(-2)
7 Free State	7 640	137 431	+472	6 042	+42	511 218	+7 644	535(-16)	63(-1)	57
8 N. Cape	5 309	73 370	+472	1 859	+12	183 846	+2 683	192(-6)	28(+1)	23(-5)
9 Limpopo	4 569	116 520	+78	4 409	+34	1 041 779	+14 762	346(-44)	33(-7)	22(-1)
TOTAL	151 811	2 613 569	7 983	88 863	376	9 557 542	158 103	14040(-234)	2 176(-66)	1 140(-50)

New tests	Tests and positivity for the previous 7 days							Recoveries	
37 891	Su:48 316	Sa:60 210	F:60 538	Th:63 369	W:39 639	Tu:35 100	M:31 242	Total	New
21.1%	21.0%	21.6%	23.0%	22.5%	18.9%	18.8%	21.7%	2 382 809	+7 176

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.

NDoH vaccine price circular

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

Vaccine dashboard

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



BUSINESS FOR SA | COVID-19

WWW.BUSINESSFORSA.ORG

REGISTER FOR YOUR VACCINATION



Time for iziNkalakatha to get vaccinated!


Anyone 35 years and older can register for a free COVID-19 vaccine from the 15th July and get vaccinated from the 1st of August.

It is easy to register: You need your ID, passport, refugee or asylum seeker number, your phone number, date of birth, address, and Medical Aid number if you have one. You do not pay for the vaccinations.

You can:
 Search EVDS online and follow instructions
OR

 Dial *134*832# and reply to the messages
OR

 Text REGISTER on Whatsapp to 0600 123 456

 Call the free COVID-19 hotline 0800 029 999 (08h00-20h00 Monday – Friday, 08h00-18h00 weekends and public holidays)





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.



Vaccines for Health Care Workers (V4HCW)

There have been important changes to the booking process since Sisonke. There are no separate websites to register – it is all on one site: <https://bookings.v4hwc.co.za/vax/>

Vaccination Communications Toolkit

The government has released a free Vaccination Communications Toolkit for use by anyone 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 week's news and interesting reading:



Dr Joe Phaahla: Vaccination for people over 18 could open by end of week: <https://www.news24.com/news24/southafrica/news/govt-is-considering-opening-covid-19-vaccinations-to-over-18s-by-the-end-of-week-20210816>

Lots of vaccines, but why are our vaccination sites empty? https://www.news24.com/news24/columnists/mandy_wiener/mandy-wiener-lots-of-vaccines-but-no-arms-to-jab-them-into-why-are-our-vaccination-sites-empty-20210817

Bhekisisa's Mia Malan recently interviewed Dr Anthony Fauci. The write-up of the interview is here: <https://bhekisisa.org/article/2021-08-16-exclusive-every-covid-question-youve-wanted-to-ask-dr-anthony-fauci/>

People's Health Movement SA (Peter Benjamin) and Media Monitoring SA (William Bird) to lay complaints at HPCSA against Dr Susan Vosloo: <https://www.news24.com/health24/medical/infectious-diseases/coronavirus/complaints-to-be-laid-against-leading-heart-surgeon-after-problematic-video-on-covid-19-vaccines-20210813>

SA headache moves from supply to demand: <https://businesstech.co.za/news/trending/512982/south-africas-vaccine-headache-switches-from-supply-to-demand/>

Third wave sees more under 59s hospitalised: <https://www.timeslive.co.za/sunday-times/news/2021-08-15-covid-19-third-wave-sees-more-under-59s-hospitalised/>

FDA: boosters approved for immunocompromised people: <https://edition.cnn.com/2021/08/14/health/covid-19-vaccine-boosters-explainer-fda-wellness/index.html>

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](#)

CONNECT WITH BUSINESS FOR SOUTH AFRICA



We encourage you to please share this mail with your colleagues

IMPORTANT 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