


B4SA: Weekly Update 09 November 2021



EVERYONE over 12 is now eligible for vaccination
- get your jab today!

This week's highlights

- Become a Vax Champ!
- Sisonke II means booster shots for healthcare workers

A note from Martin Kingston

Dear B4SA and business colleagues

If your organisation is not yet engaging with the issue of a mandatory Covid-19 vaccination policy, we would urge you to begin the conversation with urgency, remembering that it is about balancing the rights of employers and employees, and about public and workplace safety.

In congregate settings, especially, where large numbers of people are working with each other, and in close quarters, employers have a legal and ethical obligation to create a safe working environment. Furthermore, employees are entitled to expect a safe working environment. For an introduction to some of the legal, ethical and policy decisions organisations need to consider, the [webinar](#) we held a few weeks ago on this issue is an excellent place to start.

BUSA is in the process of seeking a declaratory order on the matter, with the aim of



creating legal certainty on the application of mandatory vaccination – an action we fully support. We will keep you updated as developments occur.

Finally, please do everything you can to support this weekend's **Vooma Vaccination** drive. The president has once again called on all people in South Africa who are not yet vaccinated to make their way to a vaccination site this weekend – especially those aged 50 or more. Sites – both public and private – will be open all of Friday and Saturday, and selected sites will be open on Sunday too.

We thank those private sector sites who will be opening on the weekend; we know that our healthcare workers have worked tirelessly throughout the pandemic, and we once again acknowledge their hard work and dedication.

Martin Kingston, Chair, B4SA Steering Committee





B4SA NEWS

Call for ordinary people to become official Vax Champs

This week saw the launch of the Vooma Vaccine Champions, aka Vax Champs, a programme of the Department of Health that invites everyone to become an official ambassador for vaccination.

Vax Champs are being asked to do three things:

1. Educate themselves about Covid-19 (the NDOH will provide information)
2. Promote vaccination to friends, family and neighbours (both online and offline)
3. Report issues and problems with vaccination in their area so the programme can be improved where necessary.

The programme will be run in all 11 SA languages, and Vax Champs can receive messages via WhatsApp, email or SMS.

Those who wish to become a Vax Champ can do so via:

- The NDOH Covid WhatsApp system 060 012 3456 – use the keyword JOINVAXCHAMPS
- The website: www.vaxchamp.org.za
- The national Covid-19 Hotline 0800 029 999

Sisonke II

A booster shot of J&J is now available to health workers who participated in the Sisonke study, and rollout is slated to begin tomorrow. The booster shot will be provided as a part of a new trial to assess the effectiveness of a second J&J vaccine.

There is now strong evidence that efficacy of all Covid-19 vaccines decreases over time, in relation to their ability to prevent transmission of the virus. A number of trials are now



underway to assess the effectiveness of both heterologous boosters (i.e., a booster of a different type to the first vaccine given) and homologous boosters (i.e., the same type of vaccine given as a booster).

At this time, and since this is a trial, health workers will only be offered the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

Health workers who received their first shot as part of the Sisonke trial will receive an SMS inviting them to get their booster shot. This will take them to a link where they can read and complete informed consent information. Upon agreeing to the terms of the study, they will receive a new vaccination voucher starting with the letters, "BD" (booster dose).

Making provision for people with disabilities

When considering your vaccination drives at your organisation, please ensure that people with disabilities are prioritised and taken into consideration.

People with disability are often at higher risk for Covid-19 complications, and may find it much more challenging to make their way to a vaccination site. If you have people with disability in your organisation, please engage with them, and ensure that you make it as easy as possible for them to be vaccinated.

Prioritising second jobs

In Gauteng in particular, many who had their first Pfizer jabs have not returned to get their second shots. It is vital that people understand that without both doses, they will not have full immunity against Covid-19.

Please ensure that your communications plan encourage people to get their second jabs, and engage with staff and other stakeholders around this important information.

Private sector sites list updated

Our most up-to-date list of private sector vaccination sites can be found [here](#).

LATEST STATISTICS

COVID-19 Statistics as at 08 October 2021

COVID - 19 STATISTICS IN SOUTH AFRICA

08 November 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	1 110	920 106	+38	27 599	+5	6 251 469	+29 341	1 349(-37)	193(-3)	94(+2)
2	KZN	697	515 968	+23	15 672	+15	3 611 957	+13 272	515(+3)	78(-3)	32(+2)
3	W. Cape	640	513 957	+15	20 166	+2	3 792 446	+16 708	1 347(+3)	158(+3)	56(-1)
4	Free State	518	163 720	+7	7 028	+13	1 311 459	+6 547	119(-5)	20(-4)	13(-4)
5	Mpumalanga	340	152 149	+9	4 508	+2	1 353 023	+7 134	42(-9)	6(-2)	4(-2)
6	N. Cape	338	92 621	+7	2 317	0	475 615	+2 400	39(-6)	13(-1)	9(-1)
7	E. Cape	302	292 499	+8	15 159	+1	2 696 207	+10 960	166(-8)	7(-3)	14(-1)
8	North West	245	150 755	+7	4 439	0	1 410 156	+5 571	105(-4)	9(+1)	7
9	Limpopo	104	122 297	+2	4 837	+2	2 362 660	+10 500	58(-1)	4	2
TOTAL		4 294	2 924 072	116	101 725	40	23 264 992	102 433	3 740(-64)	488(-12)	231(-5)
New tests		Tests and positivity for the previous 7 days									
16 517		Su:24 629	Sa:29 655	F:30 229	Th:33 526	W:27 392	Tu:20 495	M:13 507			
0.7%		0.8%	1.2%	1.0%	1.0%	1.3%	0.8%	0.8%			

Source: NICD and Department of Health

 @sugan2503

 SA Daily Covid-19 Updates

HELPFUL LINKS

Vaccine dashboard

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



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WWW.BUSINESSFORSA.ORG

REGISTER FOR YOUR VACCINATION



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.



B4SA vaccination myths document available for your convenience

B4SA has drawn up an extensive document debunking common myths around Covid-19 vaccination, which is available for you to use in your own vaccine communications.

You can access the document [here](#).

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 most interesting reading:

Mandatory vaccinations: Cape Chamber members waiting for court to rule on



matter: https://www.capetalk.co.za/articles/431736/most-businesses-waiting-for-the-courts-to-rule-on-mandatory-jobs-cape-chamber?fbclid=IwAR1O2nII_FwoQAV-VeP8DjopdN5Um06HuSuaVsMqo5gOOzoQ3ta_-YHE4Y

Can a landlord make vaccinations a condition in lease agreements? https://www.news24.com/fin24/money/money-clinic/money-clinic-can-a-landlord-make-vaccination-a-condition-in-a-lease-agreement-20211106?fbclid=IwAR2TpHmNTB9x_Y7U1UWvfQ7cDak9sZAXUJGCWUGF9QL0a81xt1oKeAjf8Zl

ACDP urgent application to be heard tomorrow: <https://www.news24.com/news24/southafrica/news/acdp-takes-health-department-to-court-over-covid-19-vaccine-for-children-20211109>

US urges court not to block mandatory vaccines: <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/11/08/us/politics/employer-vaccine-mandates.html>

Hungarian pharmaceutical company Richter makes vaccines mandatory for staff: <https://www.reuters.com/business/healthcare-pharmaceuticals/hungarys-richter-makes-covid-19-vaccination-mandatory-staff-2021-11-08/>

LA kicked off its mandatory vaccination policy on Monday: <https://www.npr.org/2021/11/08/1053435012/strict-mandate-takes-effect-in-la-business-patrons-must-show-proof-of-vaccinatio>

Covid-19 vaccine to be mandatory for children in Costa Rica <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-59162510>

Estimating 'excess' fatalities, a more robust analysis method, puts the pandemic's grim toll between 10 million and 19 million people <https://www.theguardian.com/theobserver/commentisfree/2021/nov/07/we-can-be-confident-there-have-been-far-more-than-5-million-covid-deaths>

NHS urges people to book jabs as hospitals see 14 times more coronavirus patients than



this time last year <https://news.sky.com/story/covid-19-booster-jabs-can-be-booked-a-month-in-advance-as-hospitals-see-14-times-more-covid-patients-than-this-time-last-year-12463729>

US opens borders to foreign tourists; Auckland lockdown likely to end this month <https://www.theguardian.com/world/live/2021/nov/08/covid-news-live-us-opens-borders-to-foreign-tourists-auckland-lockdown-likely-to-end-this-month>

Gauteng surpasses six million vaccination mark <https://ewn.co.za/2021/11/04/gauteng-surpasses-6-million-covid-19-vaccination-mark>

UK becomes first country to approve anti-Covid-19 pill <https://www.enca.com/news/uk-becomes-first-country-approve-anti-covid-pill>

Germany hit by record surge in cases <https://ewn.co.za/2021/11/04/germany-hit-by-record-surge-in-covid-19-cases>

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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