


B4SA: Weekly Update 16 December 2021



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

This week's highlights:

- Vaccine mandates toolkit for employers
- Comms resources for the holidays
- Info on booster shots for people who are immunocompromised

A note from Martin Kingston

Dear B4SA and business colleagues

As the year draws to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for your dedication, commitment and the remarkable team effort that has characterised the work of B4SA, and which has helped our country during a time of great need.

Since B4SA was formed in March 2020, hundreds of colleagues from the private sector, alongside our social partners, have volunteered their time and expertise to help fight Covid-19 and save thousands of South African lives.

B4SA was originally established to mobilise business resources and capacity to combat Covid-19, and in December 2020, concluded its support, and transitioned the work to relevant stakeholders including NDOH and BUSA. At the beginning of this year, however, we remobilised with a focus on supporting the government-led vaccination programme.

As we approach the end of 2021, I am pleased to say that most of the objectives we set ourselves have been achieved. We now have a fully functional national vaccination capacity at thousands of public and privately run sites where trained staff, using the same national system, are able to deliver vaccinations free to any eligible member of the public – an extraordinary achievement, and testament to the partnership between private and public sector, and the contributions of each of our members.

I hope that we have created a model and an example of what can be achieved if we in South Africa are able to work together to tackle our greatest challenges for the collective good. Of course, there is much left to do, and when we reconvene in the New Year, we will be looking to intensify efforts to support the introduction of vaccine mandates wherever appropriate.

This will be our final update for this year. We wish each and every one of you a safe and restorative festive season, and look forward to working with you again in 2022.

Martin Kingston, Chair, B4SA Steering Committee





B4SA NEWS

B4SA leadership changes

As many of you know, Stavros Nicolaou, chair of the B4SA Health workstream, has pared down his activity on B4SA over the course of the past few weeks to allow him to fully focus on his primary Aspen Pharmacare role and to address any perceived conflicts, given Aspen's increasing focus on relevant Covid-19 interventions. On 10 December, Dr Simon Strachan replaced Stavros as lead of the B4SA Vaccination Operations group (Vax ops).

Stavros was one of the first volunteers to raise his hand in support of our country's response to the pandemic when we formed B4SA in March 2020. Since then, he has contributed a considerable amount of his time, energy and expertise to our collective efforts to fight this destructive pandemic. From ensuring that frontline health care workers across the country had access to protective equipment at the beginning of the pandemic, to helping establish and secure thousands of private sector vaccination sites to drive vaccine coverage for all citizens, Stavros has been an invaluable member of our team.

B4SA is grateful to Stavros for his leadership and tenacity, his unwavering support for our government-led vaccination and Covid-19 response programmes, and for his dedication and commitment to our country and her people.

We recognise the success of Aspen in manufacturing vaccines, and the significant role it has to play in South Africa and more broadly on the continent.

Mandatory vaccination: employers' toolkit of resources and advice

B4SA and many others have called for employers to seriously and urgently consider introducing vaccine mandates in the workplace, first as one of the ways to protect staff, customers and suppliers, and also to help to drive up the overall vaccination rate. Unless we can drive up vaccination, save lives and reduce the burden on the healthcare system, South Africa will continue to be at risk of further restrictions to social life and economic



activity.

In South Africa and abroad, momentum for mandates is building across society, with several of South Africa's large corporates and institutions already having committed to implementing mandatory vaccination policies, after following the prescribed process. Social partners at Nedlac, including COSATU, are just some of the many structures and organisations now supporting vaccine mandates.

To help employers embark on this process, we have put together a toolkit of resources that outlines what to consider, and what process should be followed. We also provide links to practical and public resources, ranging from comprehensive independent legal opinions and step-by-step legal guides, to links to videos where top company leaders, along with health and legal experts, explain the practicalities and the case for mandatory vaccination in the workplace.

The resources are available for download free.

You can find the Employers' Mandatory Vaccination Toolkit [here](#).

Comms resources for the holidays

If you need comms collateral over the holidays, these sites have excellent resources:
[Covid Comms has a variety of useful infographics and videos, available for free download.](#)
[The Solidarity Fund's #RollUpYourSleeves campaign comes with resources.](#)
[The SA Coronavirus site also has a wide variety of communications resources and information.](#)

The reproductive rate website is [here](#).

Interactive map of vaccination sites

Whether you're home or away this festive season, if someone needs a jab, you can easily see where the closest open vaccination site is by clicking [here](#) and entering your location.

B4SA's Roseanne Harris appointed president of the IAA

Roseanne was previously president of the Actuarial Society of South Africa for 2016/17 and she succeeds Jan Kars of the Netherlands in the role of president of the IAA. The IAA is the worldwide association of professional actuarial associations, representing approximately 75,000 actuaries in more than 115 countries, with six special interest sections for individual actuaries.



At the recent council meeting of the International Actuarial Association (IAA), which was held as a hybrid event in Madrid, Prof Roseanne Harris, who is part of the B4SA's steercom and funding workstream, was confirmed as the president for 2022. Roseanne is head of Policy and Regulatory Affairs at Discovery Health and is an adjunct professor in the School of Statistics and Actuarial Science at Wits University.

Roseanne is the fourth woman to be president of the IAA. In her acceptance address, she noted the important role the actuarial profession has to play in supporting risk mitigation as we move into a post-pandemic world and simultaneously tackle the consequences of climate change. She also noted the need for the profession to support mechanisms of addressing inequality in access to risk protection that have been highlighted by the pandemic, including inequality in vaccine access globally.

Additional doses for immunocompromised individuals

As of 1 December, people who are immunocompromised are able to get an additional dose to enhance their immune protection. People with a compromised immune system may have a reduced immune response to Covid-19 vaccine, so an additional dose is recommended.



People eligible for this additional vaccine include those with :

- Haematological or immune malignancy, moderate to severe primary immunodeficiency disorder, HIV infection with CD4 count < 200 cells/ μ L within the last six months and Asplenia
- People receiving these treatments: High dose steroids or systemic biologics (e.g. for autoimmune conditions), long-term renal dialysis and transplant recipients (solid organ or bone marrow)

To get the additional dose, immunocompromised people will need to have previously received either two doses of Pfizer or one dose of J&J. Those who have received two doses of Pfizer must receive a third dose of the Pfizer vaccine and those who received the one-dose J&J should receive a second dose of J&J. The additional dose can be given between one and three months after the previous dose, and the EVDS will allow additional doses as long as 28 days have passed since the last dose.

Only people over 18 years should get the additional dose. A doctor or a nurse must prescribe it, and must both complete the referral form and keep a copy of it. Immunocompromised people who qualify should visit vaccination sites with the completed referral letter or an equivalent letter issued by their medical scheme, and this dose will appear on the vaccine certificate.

Registration for an additional vaccination dose is on the EVDS Registration Portal or at a vaccination site (<https://vaccine.enroll.health.gov.za>).

Lucky draw for those who've been vaccinated this year

Everyone who has been vaccinated this year is automatically entered into a weekly draw, to win a share of R2 million. There is no need for anyone to do anything to enter apart from getting vaccinated.

There are 1,055 prizes in total, with 211 winners each week:



- Five prizes of R100,000
- 50 prizes of R10,000
- 1,000 prizes of R1,000

The final draw takes place on the 25 January 2022, as a small proportion of records are paper-based. This will allow sufficient time for back-capturing of all records of vaccinations up to and including 31 December 2021.

The draw has been facilitated by the DG Murray Trust, with private funding, and with the endorsement of the National Department of Health.

Vooma Vouchers for 50+ helping to turn the tide

Since the Vooma Vouchers were announced on 1 November, there has been an increase in uptake among the relevant age group, especially since mid-November when vouchers for the 50+ age group were introduced. This has been the impetus for the continuation of the offer until the end of December or until vouchers run out.

The Vooma Voucher has been increased to R200 for those who vaccinate for the first time during November/December, to spend at Shoprite, Checkers or Usave.

Private sector sites list updated

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



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HELPFUL LINKS

Vaccine dashboard

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



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.](#)

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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