

20 May 2021

Dear Colleague

COVID-19 VACCINATIONS UPDATE – YOU CAN STILL BE VACCINATED!

It has been a remarkable few months for all healthcare workers as we became the first South Africans to receive the vaccine. Approaching the end of the Sisonke Trial we had a strong upsurge in the adoption of the vaccines, with healthcare workers coming from all sides to make sure they took up the opportunity. In the last few days, there were record number of vaccinations being performed – an encouraging sight. Nearly 480 000 individuals in the healthcare industry received their vaccines, and we trust that this will stand us in good stead as we begin to tackle the third COVID-19 wave.

In South Africa, Mediclinic now has more than 7000 vaccinated staff, as well as 2250 associated doctors and professionals, 1640 MHR staff members and more than 520 ER24 colleagues. What a remarkable achievement! Our colleagues in Namibia are currently in the process of receiving vaccines and we are excited for each of them to take up the opportunity.

But for those who were unable to take up the opportunity within the Sisonke Trial, there is still the opportunity as a healthcare worker to receive a vaccine as part of the healthcare worker 'mop up' phase within the next few weeks. We would urge all staff not to delay their vaccinations any further once vaccines are available for your facility.

Those who have not yet received their vaccine, will receive these via our own facilities in coming weeks. This will either be the Pfizer vaccine (two dose) or the J&J vaccine (single dose), depending on what is distributed to the site closest to you. Please note that the Sisonke voucher is no longer

valid, so you will be issued with a new vaccine code from the EVDS system for the new phase of the roll-out at the vaccination site. This will be done in parallel with the public vaccination of over 60s.

We recognise that the steps we take now will have a significant impact on what we experience during any upcoming waves. The vaccine is our best shot at avoiding serious illness or death, and we rely on our community to follow our example in receiving the vaccine. Please make every effort to convey this positive message to those who you engage with.

You will note that we now will have public vaccination centres at many of our facilities. Our community will be engaging with us through these points, hoping to follow our example. Familiarise yourself with the information for your facility, so you are able to share this within the community – driving home our positive message of hope.

We plan to start at the following nine sites using the Pfizer vaccine in the week of 24 May, and plan to vaccinate at 43 Mediclinic facilities as soon as the J&J vaccine becomes available:

- Mediclinic Morningside
- Mediclinic Medforum
- Mediclinic Bloemfontein
- Mediclinic Pietermaritzburg
- Mediclinic Geneva
- Mediclinic Gariep
- Mediclinic Cape Gate
- Mediclinic Vergelegen
- Mediclinic Milnerton

For any family members or friends (non-healthcare workers) over 60 who wish to enrol for phase 2 of the roll-out, you are welcome to direct them to this page: https://vaccine.enroll.health.gov.za/#/. We understand that the registration process is running smoothly, and that they have already had a strong and encouraging response from the community.

As the roll-out continues, we will communicate any further information impacting healthcare workers or the roll-out at your facilities. It is our responsibility as healthcare workers to be informed and share only valid and well-resourced information to combat the fake news we find on social media.

This is our best shot at overcoming the current pandemic.

Kind regards

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Dr Gerrit de Villiers Chief Clinical Officer Mediclinic Southern Africa



