



COVID-19 UPDATE

23 February 2021

Dear Colleague

COVID-19 VACCINATION UPDATE

Mediclinic is pleased to confirm that, as part of the national COVID-19 vaccine roll-out that begun on Wednesday, 17 February 2021, a number of Mediclinic's supporting doctors, emergency medical services (EMS), allied healthcare workers and staff within our hospitals have already been vaccinated against COVID-19. Over the next few weeks, those choosing to be vaccinated will receive the vaccine, along with a vaccination passport as part of the initial roll-out called the Sisonke programme.

The South African government has secured half a million doses of the Johnson & Johnson (J&J) vaccine as part of the initial roll-out programme and 30% of these doses has been allocated to the private sector as a whole. As healthcare workers are the priority vaccination group, we'd like to take the opportunity to remind you of the process in order ensure that you are included in phase 1 of the vaccination roll-out.

In order to indicate your willingness to be vaccinated against COVID-19, you will need to register (if you had not registered before or, in cases where you have registered before, you will be required to re-register) on the National Department of Health's (NDoH) Electronic Vaccine Data System (EVDS) here: <https://vaccine.enroll.health.gov.za/>

A risk based prioritisation for all health care workers as agreed upon by all private hospital groups and SAPPF will then be used to determine at what stage you will receive the vaccine within the first phase and, more specifically, who will receive the vaccine first in the initial J&J vaccine roll-out:

1. **Very high risk patient facing** i.e. EMS, Emergency Centres, ICUs/Critical care/High care and theatres, dentists, physiotherapists
2. **High risk patient facing** i.e. all other specialities, GPs and nurses not covered in 1 above and allied professionals (excluding physiotherapists already included in 1 above), administrative staff in clinical patient facing areas i.e. reception and ward personal assistants
3. **Lower risk patient facing** i.e. psychiatric hospitals, rehabilitation and step down facilities, occupational health medical practitioners
4. **Administrative staff in clinical but non-patient facing areas** i.e. financial management in hospitals
5. **Administrative staff in non-clinical non-patient facing areas** i.e. regional / corporate office

All healthcare workers (including supporting doctors) falling within risk group 1 above will be prioritised as part of the initial J&J vaccine roll-out and will be vaccinated within the coming weeks. The balance of healthcare workers falling within groups 2 – 5 will receive the vaccine during the full phase 1 roll-out depending on vaccine availability.

Once you have been prioritised and identified as eligible as part of the initial J&J vaccine roll-out, you will receive an SMS from the NDoH's EVDS with a voucher code informing you of the place the vaccination will be administered. You will also be asked to read an information sheet and provide consent for vaccination before you visit via the Sisonke site.

Appointments for the vaccination needs to be coordinated by the local hospital's vaccine coordinator as each vaccination site has different operating hours and timeslots for the private sector and we are in the process of collecting this information. These private slots are then divided between the private hospital groups (including mining hospitals as well). The allocation of the allotted timeslots is currently being refined as it needs to be divided between all categories of healthcare workers. More communication regarding this process will be distributed shortly.

Once you arrive for your appointment, you will need to present your voucher code (received by SMS) at the vaccination site as well as an approved form of identification i.e. original ID document, valid driver's licence, passport or affidavit. Please note that only those who have received a voucher code and can display it and verify their identity will be allowed to enter the vaccination centre.

Registration system enquiries

If you have been alerted by hospital management that you should have received an SMS with a voucher code, but have not, please note the details to troubleshoot below:

On the self-registration site (<https://vaccine.enroll.health.gov.za/>)

If an individual accesses self-registration, and are already eligible, they will receive a message such as the following:

Dear HCWs access to the J&J Sisonke Vaccine Program. This vaccine is a safe and effective single-dose vaccine. To proceed and give consent, go to <http://sisonke.samrc.ac.za/>. Once you have consented a Vaccination Voucher will be issued for you to attend the closest Vaccine Site.

On the Sisonke registration site for the J&J programme (<https://sisonke.samrc.ac.za/#/>)

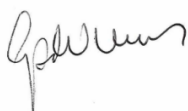
If an individual accesses the Sisonke site after having already received a voucher, they will receive a message such as the following:

**Your application to J&J Sisonke Vaccine Program was received on
2021-02-18 and the status of voucher YTS3CMDA is currently
Redeemed.**

As this is still the first week of the vaccination roll-out, there may be a few glitches experienced, however, we are working closely with the NDoH to resolve any operational issues.

For more information regarding Mediclinic's preparations for the COVID-19 vaccination roll-out as well as the J&J vaccine, please [click here](#) to view a recorded broadcast.

Kind regards



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