



5 May 2021

Dear Colleague

### COVID-19 VACCINATIONS UPDATE – SISONKE ROLL-OUT PROCEEDS

We are excited that the vaccination roll-out has now resumed under the Sisonke Programme, as well as with the recent arrival of the Pfizer vaccines for roll-out to the general public. In addition to the weekly deliveries that Pfizer will be providing from next month, we also expect a large number of J&J vaccines to be available towards the middle of the month, which should certainly increase the speed of phase 2 and 3 of the roll-out.

As of 4 May 2021, nearly **340 000 healthcare workers** have already been vaccinated, and from information that has been made public, this has definitely contributed to the downward trend in healthcare worker infections in recent months.

We are in the process of finalising the details for all our remaining staff to receive the vaccine and would urge you to ensure that your registration is complete. For those that have already received vouchers from the EVDS system prior to the pause in the roll-out, but have not been vaccinated, please ensure that you follow the SMS link you will receive from the system providing further safety information on the study. Following this you will receive a new voucher, allowing you to proceed with the vaccination process as part of the Sisonke trial.

Just a reminder that all employees have already been bulk uploaded to the EVDS system but the process also requires your application on the system to confirm that you are willing to be vaccinated.

For this reason, we encourage you to ensure that you have completed this registration and that your details are up to date on the EVDS system (<https://vaccination.health.gov.za/#/>). You will be asked for your ID number, any medical aid details as well as the closest vaccination centre near you. This will be provided as a drop down list according to the region you are in. Should you experience any problems while trying to register, please consult with the vaccine co-ordinator for your facility to assist you in this process. We encourage you to apply and to be part of the solution as we fight COVID-19 together.

The roll-out of COVID-19 vaccines for our Corporate Office and Group Services through the Sisonke trial will now proceed using one of three vaccination points: Paarl Provincial Hospital, Melomed Gatesville and Worcester Provincial Hospital. Rosters are not strictly managed at Gatesville so you can attend as convenient, the site will be open this Saturday 8 May, until 14h00. Please note that vaccinations at the Worcester and Paarl Provincial are strictly by appointment. We ask that you liaise with the following individuals should you wish to attend vaccination in Worcester or Paarl. Please email them your ID number, preferred date and confirmation that you have received an EVDS voucher:

- Worcester: Sune Killian & Liezel Alberts
- Paarl (morning vaccinations only): Jeanine Visser & Johline Genis

For those without professional society registration, please contact your HRBP or AskHR for a letter of employment, which will be required at the vaccination site. If Corporate Office employees experience any voucher related issues or have not received the SMS from the EVDS system, please escalate to [hanlie.basson@mediclinic.co.za](mailto:hanlie.basson@mediclinic.co.za). Regional office employees must please coordinate with their regional offices for vaccination opportunities in their regions.

We understand that there are a few individuals who may still be cautious about the process, and for those we would like to encourage you through the experiences of your colleagues who have already received the vaccine. This is what they have to say:

On the day of my vaccine I was nervous, but the vaccination team made things easy and comfortable with all the information they provided. The process was so easy from the first step to me finally getting my shot.

A nurse observed my temperature and monitored whether I had any negative reactions, which I did not. I would like to encourage you, as I did not experience anything scary or negative on the day.

**Surprise Ngwenyama, Mediclinic Nelspruit**

At first I was reluctant to vaccinate due to fear and the spiritual view of things. After the vaccine I just had pain on the injection site but after 2 days I was fine. I would like to encourage those that are still reluctant to go and vaccinate – you will feel safe, like I do now.

**EN Prudence Khoza, Mediclinic Nelspruit**

For any family members or friends (non-healthcare workers) over 60 that 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 this process is running smoothly, and that they have already had a strong and encouraging response from the community.

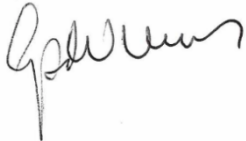
According to recent statements from the National Department of Health, we expect vaccinations to proceed quite quickly from here, with the roll-out targeting our older population for the vaccine, as they are the most vulnerable for severe illness or death. Many of our facilities will be part of this public

roll-out process, and we encourage you to continue to play your role by sharing the importance of being vaccinated with those you come into contact with. Sharing only valid and well-resourced information to combat the fake news we find online.

Those health care workers not vaccinated during the Sisonke trial, will have the opportunity to access vaccines through a mop-up process later. Details of this will follow once available.

This is our best shot at overcoming the current pandemic.

Kind regards



**Dr Gerrit de Villiers**  
Chief Clinical Officer  
Mediclinic Southern Africa