



Western Cape
Government

Health

CHIEF DIRECTORATE: EMERGENCY &
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DIRECTORATE: PHARMACY SERVICES
Reference: 18/2/18/7
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CIRCULAR H 70/2021

**TO: DDG: CHIEF OF OPERATIONS / CHIEF DIRECTORS / DIRECTORS / HEADS OF INSTITUTIONS
HEAD OF HEALTH: CITY OF CAPE TOWN**

**N.B. FOR CIRCULATION TO ALL MEDICAL, PARAMEDICAL, PHARMACEUTICAL AND NURSING
PERSONNEL**

DOSING INTERVAL OF THE PFIZER-BIONTECH COVID-19 VACCINE

Please refer to the attached notice from the National Department of Health: *Dosing interval for the Pfizer-Biontech vaccine*, dated 19 May 2021, with the recommendation that the Pfizer-Biontech vaccine should be administered with a 42-day interval between the first and the second doses.

National Department of Health have informed that an SMS will be sent to all vaccinees who have received their first dose of the Pfizer-Biontech Covid vaccine to inform them that the date of their next vaccination has changed, and a new date for their second dose is provided.

The EVDS system will not allow for a Pfizer-Biontech vaccine to be scheduled for the second dose before the 42-day period.

Please inform all vaccination sites to ensure that vaccinees are provided with the correct information.

JO ARENDSE

CHIEF DIRECTOR: EMERGENCY AND CLINICAL SERVICES SUPPORT

DATE: 28 May 2021



**DIRECTOR GENERAL
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NOTICE: DOSING INTERVAL OF THE PFIZER-BIONTECH COVID-19 VACCINE

Vaccination has been identified as a key intervention to mitigate the public health and economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and end the acute phase of the global pandemic. Access to an effective vaccine and its appropriate use protects individuals and communities against serious disease and prevents the spread of those diseases to other people.

The Ministerial Advisory Committee on COVID-19 Vaccines (VMAC) has considered the currently available vaccines based on available data on their safety, efficacy and immunogenicity, ease of use, logistic implications, supply and sustainability, cost, as well as registration with the South African Health Products Authority, for use in the citizens of South Africa. The effect of the circulating variants has also been taken into account. Based on these considerations, and upon the advice of the VMAC, the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine has been procured as one of the vaccines to be used in the South African Covid-19 Vaccination Programme.

The COVID-19 vaccine developed by Pfizer/BioNTech is indicated for active immunisation to prevent COVID-19 caused by SARS-CoV-2 virus. This vaccine consists of a 2-dose regimen, of which a 21-day dosing interval between the first and second dose has been shown to be efficacious in Phase 3 clinical trials. There is currently emerging evidence to support a 42-day interval between the first and second doses. The VMAC has reviewed the available evidence in this regard and have advised that, in the event of limited vaccine supply, the dosing interval should be extended to 42 days.

Recommendation

It is recommended that, based on the above considerations, the Pfizer/BioNTech Covid-19 vaccine should be administered using the 42-day dosing interval between the first and second doses.

Note: This recommendation may be amended should further data become available.

The scheduling on the Electronic Vaccination Data System (EVDS) will be programmed accordingly.

Provinces and Healthcare facilities are requested to distribute and communicate this information in consultation with their Vaccine programme managers (or Coordinators).

Kind regards

**DR SSS BUTHELEZI
DIRECTOR-GENERAL: HEALTH
DATE: 19 May 2021**