



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

CIRCULAR H77 /2022

COVID-19 VACCINE PROJECT OFFICE: REVISED MEASURES FOR THE PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT OF COVID-19 IN SCHOOLS

The Department of Basic Education has issued the directives as outlined in the attached Circular S9 of 2022 to guide provinces and schools on the prevention and management of Covid-19 and is applicable with immediate effect. All schools will now be utilised as vaccination sites for all learners 12 years and older, educators and support staff.

Substructure and Sub-district/ District teams must engage with their WC Education counterparts at a local level to discuss and plan the implementation of this directive including the consent process.

Teams can make use of support mechanisms such as the EMS Vaxi Taxis and the Solidarity Fund funded Clinical Operators.

**Please feel free to refer any areas that require clarity or any requests for assistance from partners to
Jacqueline Voget and Kim Lowenherz.**

Yours sincerely,

Digitally signed
by Juanita O.
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CHIEF DIRECTOR: EMERGENCY AND CLINICAL SERVICES SUPPORT

DATE: 31 May 2022



basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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**TO: HEADS OF PROVINCIAL DEPARTMENTS
DISTRICT DIRECTORS
CIRCUIT MANAGERS
SCHOOL PRINCIPALS
SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES
TEACHER UNIONS
SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY ASSOCIATIONS**

CIRCULAR NO. S9 OF 2022: REVISED MEASURES FOR THE PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT OF COVID-19 IN SCHOOLS

1. On 4 April 2022, President Cyril Ramaphosa announced that the National State of Disaster was lifted from midnight of 5 April 2022. The Basic Education sector has welcomed the President's decision and recognises the implications of this decision for the sector. As such, the Department is hereby issuing the following directives on the prevention and management of COVID-19 and these are applicable with immediate effect:
 - All learners, teachers, non-teaching staff and visitors are no longer required to wear a mask during school breaks and during outdoor activities. The wearing of masks remains mandatory for every person when in the classroom, school halls and other indoor spaces. It is therefore required that schools must ensure that all learners, educators, school support staff and visitors are in possession of a mask prior to entering the school premises. Any individuals who do not have masks must be denied access to school premises. This requirement excludes children under the age of six years.
 - Screening for COVID-19 symptoms using a questionnaire and thermal screening using the infrared light thermometers must be discontinued with immediate effect for all individuals entering school premises.
 - Schools can now be utilised by communities for social gatherings including sporting activities, church services and other community events. Vendors are also allowed to sell foodstuff at school provided that they have a Certificate of Acceptance from the Municipality. It is the responsibility of the convenor of the social event to ensure that there is strict adherence to non-pharmaceutical intervention as stated in paragraph 2 below.

2. All other non-pharmaceutical measures remain in place and mandatory for schools and education offices and these are:
- Washing of hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or using hand sanitisers.
 - Placing of 70% alcohol-based hand sanitisers in each classroom, at entrances and exits, and near lunchrooms as well as halls so that sanitising of hands should be done when entering and leaving these venues.
 - Maintaining good ventilation by opening doors, windows and/or using fans for air circulation.
 - School buildings and equipment must be cleaned thoroughly and regularly by following the environmental health cleaning and disinfection protocol using household bleach. Environment cleaning by fogging and spraying of buildings is forbidden.

3. COVID-19 VACCINATION PROGRAMME

- As part of the plan to eliminate COVID-19 in schools and make them safe places for teaching and learning, all schools will be utilised as vaccination sites for schools for all learners above 12 years as well as educators and school support staff who qualify for the booster doses.
- This is a collaborative effort between the Departments of Basic Education and Health and various partners.
- Parental consent will be required prior to learners being vaccinated in schools in line with the procedures of the Integrated School Health Programme Policy. A generic consent form has been provided for this purposes (**Annexure A**). All learners who wish to vaccinate and the parent has not given consent should be referred to the routine COVID-19 vaccination site. Frequently asked questions are provided for this purpose (**Annexure B**).



DR G WHITTLE
ACTING DIRECTOR-GENERAL

DATE: 24/04/2022

COVID 19 – VACCINATION PROGRAMME 2022

CONSENT FORM

ALL SCHOOL LEARNERS

Dear Parent/Guardian/Caregiver

The Department of Basic Education, in partnership with the Department of Health have agreed to provide in-schools vaccinations against the COVID 19 for learners who are 12 years and above, educators and school support staff in all primary and secondary schools.

For your child to receive these services we need you to give permission by completing the form on the other side of this page.

The vaccination team may screen your child and it could include the following:

1. Checking your child's health - blood pressure, temperature, and observation for fifteen minutes for any adverse events following the inoculation / immunisation (AEFI)
2. Health education on COVID-19 and the vaccines
3. Comprehensive briefing on the process to follow in event the learner is concerned about his/her health in the weeks following the vaccination.

You can come with your child to school on the day when the vaccination team visits and you, your family, neighbours and friends are welcome to bring along your ID book, birth certificate or asylum seeker registration and get vaccinated as well. Where a learner / adult has no documentation special arrangements will be made.

Please contact the school principal for any enquiries or additional information about these services **OR** if you have given written permission and you want to withdraw. Given budgetary constraints, the service may be limited at schools but will be available at the clinics and hospitals

Please return the completed form to the school tomorrow.

PERMISSION/CONSENT FORM 2022 : COVID 19 VACCINATION SERVICE/S

Parent/guardian/caregiver please **COMPLETE** the information on this form

Name of learner: _____ Grade: _____

ID No or LURITS No: _____ Age: _____

School Name: _____ Educ District: _____

A. PLEASE CROSS A BOX NEXT TO THE SERVICES YOU WANT YOUR CHILD TO RECEIVE

I _____ give permission for my child to receive the following:

Name: parent/guardian/caregiver

YES NO Please cross YES or NO

- Immunisation (Covid-19 for children 12 years or older)
- Health check (mainly body temperature check and referral to clinic if needed)
- Education and counselling** (COVID-19, protecting themselves and about vaccination / vaccines)

B. Signature

Signature Parent/guardian/caregiver

AND/OR Signature: Child, 12yrs & older

Date: _____ Tel/ Cell number for Parent/guardian/caregiver _____

C. THIS SECTION MUST BE COMPLETED , PLEASE CROSS YES OR NO IN THE BOX

Does your child have any health problems?

No Yes Do not know

If yes: Is your child receiving treatment for the health problem?

No Yes Do not know

Do you have a household member with COVID 19?

No Yes

How many adults will be coming to the school to be vaccinated?

Does your child have any allergies?

No Yes Do not know

If **yes**, what is your child allergic to?

Schools to keep all consent forms safe.