



TO:

- DDG: Chief of Operations**
- Chief Directors: MHS, RHS & Strategy**
- Heads of Institutions**
- Directors: MHS, RHS, HIA, ECSS**
- Director: City Health**

Circular...142/2021

COVID-19 VACCINE PROJECT OFFICE: VACCINE PROGRAMME UPDATES

Please note the following important updates from the COVID-19 vaccine programme:

1. Congregate settings

Most congregate settings have concluded their vaccination campaigns. In the case of clients residing in congregate settings who still require vaccination: if ambulatory, the client may be directed to their nearest vaccination site to be vaccinated.

2. Early 2nd dose vaccination

The Pfizer vaccination regimen is 42 days between 1st and 2nd doses. There is no mechanism for clients to receive 2nd doses earlier and no exemptions process is currently active. Vaccination sites are discouraged from accommodating requests for early 2nd dose vaccination on paper-based vaccination forms as these cannot be back-captured with the accurate vaccination date and thus jeopardises client's proof of vaccination record.

3. Proof of vaccination letters

Due to the high volumes of requests for proof of vaccination letters for travel, the turn-around time for these queries is 5 working days from receipt of all relevant documentation and not from date of first application. Note that no deviation is allowed from the process defined in Circular H114 of 2021, until the NDoH communicates the QR coded national mechanism.

4. Maximum duration between 1st and 2nd Pfizer dose

The current evidence supports a maximum of 6 months between 1st and 2nd Pfizer dose, without having to restart the regimen. In the case of clients who present >6 months after 1st Pfizer dose, their vaccination regimen must be re-started from 1st dose and capture this on paper-based EVDS form. This will need to be back-captured once there is a mechanism to capture on EVDS.

5. Vaccination of learners >18 years old

Learners who are 18 years and older are encouraged to be vaccinated and will be offered a Pfizer vaccine. Learners must present an ID document or birth certificate to be registered on the EVDS. Learners to be registered at schools as arranged with Western Cape Education Department however may be registered on site. Learners are to adhere to the 42-day dosing regimen with no accommodation for early 2nd doses. Learners below 18 years cannot be vaccinated at this time.

6. Administration of 2nd dose if 1st dose received in another country

A 2nd dose of Pfizer may be offered if a 1st dose of a 2-dose regimen was received in another country- administer 2nd dose at least 42 days after 1st dose received and capture the episode on paper-based EVDS form. This will need to be back-captured once there is a mechanism to capture on EVDS.

7. Equity Equalising Efforts

Inequities in the rollout of the vaccination programme persist with a greater proportion of insured clients having been vaccinated when compared to uninsured clients. The expansion of the eligibility criteria to include all persons aged 18 years and older holds the potential risk that the younger age categories may crowd out older, more vulnerable age groups. Districts are advised to adopt specific social mobilisation and demand creation mechanisms to address inequities in the respective geographic areas. These mechanisms should be context-specific and should be aimed at speaking to local realities.

8. Vaccination of Pregnant and breastfeeding woman

Provincial circular H100/2021 encourages all pregnant and breastfeeding women to be offered COVID-19 vaccines at any time during their pregnancy. Please refer to the attached informational leaflets (in English, Afrikaans and IsiXhosa) which served as an aid to healthcare workers when counselling pregnant women of the risks and benefits of COVID-19 vaccination.

9. Comirnaty (Pfizer) vaccine method of administration

After dilution, vials of Comirnaty (Pfizer) contain **only six** doses of 0.3 mL of vaccine. In order to extract six doses from a single vial, low dead-volume syringes and/or needles should be used. Some experienced vaccinators can extract six doses with normal syringe and needle. Discard the vial and its contents once 6 doses have been extracted, or if the amount of vaccine left in the vial is not enough for a full sixth dose (0.3 ml). There should be no pooling from multiple vials to make up a full dose, and any unused vaccine should be discarded 6 hours after dilution.



J.O. Arendse

Chief Director: ECSS

Date: 2 Sep 2021



Swanger, beplan jy 'n swangerskap of borsvoed jy? KRY DIE INENTING TEEN COVID-19

- COVID-19 is baie gevaarliker in swanger vroue, veral na die einde van die swangerskap toe.
- Swanger vroue wat ouer is of hoë bloeddruk, diabetes, vetsug, TB of onbehandelde MIV het, is veral in gevaar.



Wat weet ons van die COVID-19-entstowwe?

- COVID-19-entstowwe is baie doeltreffend. Dit verminder jou kans om ernstige COVID-19 te kry of aan COVID-19 te sterf.
- Die entstof kan jou en moontlik jou baba teen selfs ligte COVID-19-infeksie beskerm.
- Nie een van die COVID-19-entstowwe bevat die lewendige virus nie. Jy en jou baba kan dus nie COVID-19 kry van die entstowwe nie.
- COVID-19-entstowwe is veilig. Dit veroorsaak dieselfde nuwe-effekte, of jy swanger is of nie. Dis gewoonlik lig. Jy kan parasetamol gebruik as jy koors of hoofpyn het na inenting.
- Jy het 'n groter kans om baie siek te word van COVID-19 as om 'n ernstige nuwe-effek van die entstof te kry.
- Daar is geen bekende risiko's vir jou baba wanneer jy borsvoed nie. Daar kan voordele vir jou baba wees as jy ingeënt is.
- Daar is geen bewyse dat COVID-19-entstowwe probleme veroorsaak met vrugbaarheid of om in die toekomst swanger te raak nie.

COVID-19-entstofstudies in swanger vroue het nie enige skadelike uitwerking op die ontwikkelende baba of swangerskap getoon nie. Meer as 148 000 swanger vroue in Amerika is ingeënt sonder enige veiligheidskwessies.



Wat moet jy nou doen?

1. Praat met 'n gesondheidsorgverskaffer as jy meer inligting nodig het of as jy enige vrese het.
2. Woon steeds jou gewone voorgeboortesorg- en babakliniekbesoeke by.
3. Gaan voort met maatreëls om te verhoed dat jy COVID-19 opdoen.



- Dra jou masker



- Was jou hande



- Behou 'n veilige fisieke afstand tussen jou en ander mense



- Vermyn groot groepe mense en beknopte areas

4. Registreer om ingeënt te word:
<https://vaccine.enroll.health.gov.za>



August 2021



Pregnant, planning pregnancy or breastfeeding? GET VACCINATED AGAINST COVID-19

- COVID-19 is more dangerous in pregnant women, especially towards the end of pregnancy.
- Pregnant women who are older or are living with hypertension, diabetes, obesity, TB or untreated HIV are especially at risk.



What do we know about COVID-19 vaccines?

- COVID-19 vaccines are very effective. They decrease the chances of you getting severe COVID-19 or dying from COVID-19.
- The vaccine can protect you and possibly your baby from getting even mild COVID-19 infection.
- None of the COVID-19 vaccines contain the live virus, so it cannot give you or your baby COVID-19.
- COVID-19 vaccines are safe. They cause the same side effects whether you are pregnant or not. These are usually mild. You can use paracetamol if you have a fever or headache after vaccination.
- You have a greater chance of getting very sick from COVID-19 than from having a severe side effect of the vaccine.
- There are no known risks for your baby when breastfeeding. There may be benefits for your baby if you are vaccinated.
- There is no evidence that COVID-19 vaccines cause problems with fertility or getting pregnant in the future.

COVID-19 vaccine studies in pregnant women have not shown any harmful effects on the developing baby or on pregnancy. Over 148 000 pregnant women in the United States have been vaccinated without any safety concerns.



What must you do now?

1. Discuss with a healthcare provider if you need more information or have concerns.
2. Continue to attend your routine antenatal care and baby clinic visits.
3. Continue with measures to avoid catching COVID-19.



- Wear your mask



- Wash your hands



- Keep a safe physical distance from others



- Avoid crowds and confined places

4. Register to get vaccinated:
<https://vaccine.enroll.health.gov.za>



Western Cape
Government

Send the word **'REGISTER'** to **0600 123 456** on WhatsApp or dial ***134*832#**. For support to register, call **0860 142 142** or visit **www.westerncape.gov.za**



Ukhulelwe, uceba ukukhulelwa okanye uyancancisa? YIYA KUGONYELWA ICOVID-19

- I-COVID-19 iyingozi kakhulu kumabhinqa akhulelweyo ngakumbi xa sele besondele ekubeni babeleke.
- Amabhinqa akhulelweyo asele eqabukile (ekhululie noko) okanye aphila nehypertension, isifo seswekile, anemizimba emikhulu kakhulu, iTB okanye iHIV enganyangwayo ngawona asemngciphekweni.



Yintoni oyaziyo ngeevaksini zeCOVID-19?

- Izigonyo zeCOVID-19 zisebenza ngokufanelekileyo. Zinciphisa amathuba okufumana iCOVID ngokumandla okanye okubulawa yiCOVID-19.
- Isigonyo singakukhusela wena nosana lwakho ekubeni ningayifumani neyona ingenamandla iCOVID-19.
- Akukho nanye ivaksini yeCOVID-19 enevayirasi ephilayo, ngoko ke ayikwazi ukuba ingakusulela wena nosana lwakho.
- Izigonyo zeCOVID-19 zikhuselekile. Zinefute elifanayo ngokweziphumo ezingalindelakanga nokuba ukhulelwe okanye awukhulelwanga. Ezi ziphumo zingalindelekanga zidla ngokungabi mandla kangako. Ungasebenzisa iparacetamol ukuba unefiva okanye intloko ebuhlungu emva kokugonywa.
- Unethuba elikhulu lokuba ugule kakhulu yiCOVID-19 ngaphezu kokuba zisenza iziphumo ezingalindelekanga emva kokugonywa.
- Akukho mingcipheko yaziwayo enokuchaphazela usana lwakho oluncanca ibele. Zingakho izinto eziluncedo nakusana lwakho xa uthe wagonya.
- Akukho bungqina buthi izigonyo zeCOVID-19 zibangela iingxaki zokungaqhami kwinzala okanye zingakwenza ungakhulelwa nakwixa elizayo.

Uphando ngeevaksini zeCOVID-19 kumabhinqa akhulelweyo alubonisanga bungozi ekukhuleni kosana okanye ekukhulelweni. Angaphezu kwe-148 000 amabhinqa akhulelweyo eUnited States aye agonywa, khange kubekho nto ixhalabisayo ngokhuseleko.



Yintoni omawuyenze ngoku?

1. Dibana nomsebenzi wezempilo nibonisane xa unento okanye unezinto ezikuxhalabisayo.
2. Qhubeka usiya ngokwesiqhelo kunonophelo lwabakhulelweyo nakwiiklinikhi zeentsana.
3. Qhubeka ulandela imimiselo yokhuseleko ukuphepha ukusulelwa yiCOVID-19



- Nxiba imaskhi yakho



- Hlamba izandla zakho



- Gcina umgama woqelelwano phakathi kwakho nabanye



- Kuphephe ukuba kwiindawo ezinengxinano nezivalekileyo

4. Bhalisela ukugonya ku-: <https://vaccine.enroll.health.gov.za>

