

COVID-19 VACCINATION PHASES



Dear Umvuzo Health Member,

The Covid-19 pandemic has been part of our lives since early 2020 and has reached the stage where vaccines against the Covid-19 virus have become available in South Africa.

This document summarises the important things you should know and keep in mind to have access to the vaccine.

The giving of the **Covid-19 vaccine is a PMB**, which means that **Umvuzo Health will pay for all our members who choose to be vaccinated**. The Scheme pays for the vaccine itself as well as the cost for giving the vaccine. It is not a compulsory for anyone to be vaccinated, every member must decide for him or herself whether or not they would like to be vaccinated.

The vaccines that are currently on the market are only for adults, i.e. persons of 18 years and older.

Some of the vaccines are made up of two shots that must both be obtained to ensure full vaccination. Details will be given to members when they get their first injection.

It is important to keep in mind that although providers like pharmacies will be able to give you your injection, the Department of Health (DoH) controls the whole process. DoH buys the vaccines from the manufacturers and controls the distribution of the vaccine. In the distribution process DoH will allow providers like pharmacies to be service points where one can get the injection.

Allocating vaccines to the various providers and service points is an important aspect of the whole process for two important reasons.

FIRSTLY,

many of the vaccines must be transported under specific “cold” conditions, some as cold as minus 70 degrees. If the cold chain is broken the vaccine can lose some of its efficacy. It is therefore very important to ensure that all participating providers adhere to cold chain regulations and that the amount of vaccines sent to specific service points are destined for identified persons and not go to waste. Vaccines cannot be kept in a fridge at a service point indefinitely. To ensure that the flow of vaccines adheres to these crucial principles, all adults who want to be vaccinated must register on a website operated by the Department.

This website can be found at: <https://vaccine.enroll.health.gov.za/#/>

SECONDLY,

government has also arranged the allocation of vaccines to specific parts of the population in stages. This means that the different stages will determine those who can then obtain their vaccine during the timeframe that corresponds to their age or employment type. Practically this means that the vaccine will be given to the groups listed below during defined time slots or windows.

PHASE ONE

Healthcare workers and people older than 60 form part of the first group that can get vaccinated. They are currently eligible.



PHASE TWO COMMENCES ON 17 MAY 2021

The people who can get their vaccine during the second phase include:



- **Workers performing essential services** such as police officers, essential workers in the security, funeral, municipal services etc.
- **Persons who live in close proximity** to one another such as **old age homes**.
- **Persons over the age of 60 years**.
- **Persons over 18 years with chronic conditions** that make them more vulnerable to Covid-19 such as cancer, diabetes, high blood sugar etc.

PHASE THREE TOWARDS THE END OF 2021

All people aged 18 and older.



REGISTRATION PROCESS

In order to register on this website <https://vaccine.enroll.health.gov.za/#/> you will need the following:

- Your ID number,
- Your street address,
- Your medical aid name and member number,
- Your mobile number where an SMS can be sent to,
- The preferred day (weekday vs weekend) and time of day (morning vs afternoon) when you would like to get your shot.

After you have registered, you will get an SMS to confirm that your details have been received.

You will then be allocated a day, time and place to get your vaccine which will be sent as a second SMS close to the time of your appointment.

The reason the Department is driving the vaccination process is to reach what is called “herd immunity.” This means that when enough people are vaccinated the virus will not be able to spread easily because vaccinated people will form a barrier between infected persons and those persons not yet infected.

It is also important to keep in mind that the flu season is upon us and that Umvuzo Health pays for a flu vaccine for all our members. You can check with your local pharmacy about availability. The flu shot and Covid-19 vaccine should be given at least 14 days apart.

STAY SAFE, HEALTHY AND VIGILANT AT ALL TIMES.

UMVUZO HEALTH

#RewardingLife



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