

5 JULY 2021

TEACHERS AND STAFF IN BASIC EDUCATION URGED TO GET VACCINATED IN THE FINAL WEEK OF THE PROGRAMME

Educators and staff in the basic education sector are urged to go to the vaccination sites to get their Johnson & Johnson vaccine injections.

The vaccination programme in basic education continues even after schools went on an early recess on Friday following President Cyril Ramaphosa's announcement that the country would move to Level 4 of the COVID-19 risk adjusted strategy. More than 333,000 teachers and support staff have since been vaccinated since the campaign started on 23 June 2021.

Phase 1 targeted 300,000; to be vaccinated within the first 10 days of the programme. This target was based on the number of doses allocated of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine to the sector.

By the end of Day 1 of the sector's vaccination programme, the Basic Education sector had vaccinated a total of 48,000 of the Phase 1 target.

By 01 July 2021 (9 days since the start of the vaccination programme), over 100% (300,052) of the Phase 1 target had been met across the nine Provinces or *Within 9 days of commencing Phase 1, a total of 300,052 educators and non-teaching staff had been vaccinated.*

The Basic Education sector received an additional 289,000 doses of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. These additional doses, enables the sector to reach its overall target of vaccinating **582,564** educators and non-teaching staff.

The Basic Education sector will continue to administer the remaining doses of the vaccine to cover the remaining **282,512** staff. In addition, support staff from independent schools, food handlers, screeners, cleaners and ECD practitioners will be included in the roll out programme.

The Department urges all educators and staff to follow the schedules in each district in order to ensure a smooth roll-out of the programme.

Media Enquiries:

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THIS IS WHY GETTING THE VACCINE IS IMPORTANT FOR YOU!

1. All vaccines used in South Africa have been tested and approved by SAHPRA – an entity of the National Department of Health created by Government with the responsibility to regulate health products in the country.
2. Getting the vaccine will protect you from severe illness, hospitalization and death from COVID-19.
3. When you are vaccinated, your immune system will recognize the virus quickly when you get infected with COVID-19 and prevents you from being severely ill or dying.
4. Get vaccinated, you will be doing it for yourself and your loved ones.
5. When we collectively take the decision to get vaccinated, we take a step closer to returning to getting back to life as we knew it.
6. Our leaders in Government, Teacher Unions, faith-based and other sectors have already gotten the vaccine.
7. Fake news and conspiracy theories are part of all vaccination programmes – always listen to the experts and the scientists.
8. The Basic Education sector is aware of hesitancy surrounding the COVID-19 vaccines. The sector is working closely with Teacher Unions, SGBs and other stakeholders to address it.
9. The Basic Education sector is engaging experts and leaders of the faith based groups to address vaccine hesitancy in the sector.
10. Getting the vaccine provides you with one layer of protection - you still need to continue wearing a mask, washing or sanitizing your hands and keeping physical distance from others. Together, these provide you with a complete package of protection.
11. Vaccination is voluntary – The Basic Education sector will ever force you to take it. You can, however, save yourself and help save others by choosing vaccination.
12. The Basic Education sector vaccination programme will remain open during the week of 5-9 July 2021.
13. You can get vaccinated at your nearest vaccination designated site. Your school has the information on the nearest vaccination site.
14. For more information, call the COVID-19 call centre on 0800 029 999

ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF BASIC EDUCATION

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