



# health

Department:  
Health  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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**TO:**  
**HEADS OF PROVINCIAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS**  
**HEADS OF PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICES**  
**DISTRICT AND PHC MANAGERS**  
**COVID-19 VACCINE PROGRAMME MANAGERS**  
**COVID-19 VACCINATION SITE MANAGERS**

## **SHELF LIFE EXTENSION OF COVID-19 VACCINE JANSSEN® (JOHNSON & JOHNSON) WHEN STORED AT 2-8°C**

SAHPRA has approved the COVID-19 vaccine Janssen® for the active immunisation to prevent Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) in individuals 18 years of age and older.

Janssen® conducts ongoing stability assessment studies on the storage condition of the COVID-19 vaccine Janssen® at different temperature ranges. In November 2021, SAHPRA approved the extended storage of the vaccine at 2-8 °C to 4,5 months (135 days).

SAHPRA has subsequently approved the extension of the 2-8°C storage duration of the Janssen® COVID-19 vaccine from 4,5 months to 11 months. This is applicable to all vaccines currently in circulation and at central storage.

The storage conditions for the COVID-19 vaccine Janssen® stored at -20°C have not been updated, and therefore the expiry date for vaccines stored at -20°C remains unchanged. As no expiry date appears on the carton or the vial, the expiry date can be checked in different ways, including:

1. Scan the Quick Response (QR) code on the back of the carton using a mobile device camera
2. On the web, check [VaxCheck.jnj](https://www.vaxcheck.jnj.com)

Please ensure the expiry dates on COVID-19 vaccine Janssen® currently stored between 2-8°C are updated to reflect a maximum of 11 months from when the vaccine was moved from -20°C storage to 2-8°C storage.

Your continued support is appreciated.

**DR NICHOLAS CRISP**  
**DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: NHI**  
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