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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

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NATIONAL DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH POLICY GUIDANCE TO VACCINATION SITES

Circular 01/ 4 June 2021

Note: these guidelines apply to both public and private health vaccination sites, but not to workplace sites.

1. Eligibility for Vaccination

- a. South Africa is currently vaccinating persons aged 60 years and above and healthcare workers. No other groups should be vaccinated at present, unless stipulated by the NDOH.
2. Registration on the Electronic Vaccination Data System (EVDS) for general population aged 60 and above
 - a. In order to participate in the national vaccination rollout, all eligible individuals must be registered on the Electronic Vaccination Data System (EVDS).
 - b. Currently only those aged 60 and above are eligible to register on the EVDS.
 - c. Once registered, the individual will receive an SMS confirming their registration.
 - d. A subsequent SMS will be sent notifying the registrant of the details of their scheduled vaccination appointment.
 - e. All sites are requested to provide vaccinees at least 3 days notice of their appointments, if possible.
 - f. The National Department of Health will announce when the EVDS system will open for the registration for other age groups in due course.

3. Healthcare Worker Registration

- a. The EVDS is now closed to new registrations by Healthcare Workers.
- b. All Healthcare Professionals i.e. registered with a professional body and who are already registered on the EVDS system will be transferred to the [www.v4hcw.co.za] system which will manage their vaccination scheduling. c. All unregistered Healthcare Professionals are to register on [www.v4hcw.co.za].
- d. Details on how other Healthcare workers can register will be announced shortly.

4. Walk-in Policy Guidance

- a. While walk-ins are discouraged, we recognize that for practical reasons some sites across both the public and private sectors are currently accepting unscheduled “walk-ins” over the age of 60.
- b. Vaccination site managers are granted discretion to accept walk-ins over 60 subject to the following guidance:
 - i. All individuals with scheduled appointments must be given priority over unscheduled “walk-ins”.
 - ii. Site managers must ensure they have sufficient stock to vaccinate those scheduled for vaccination at their site before they open for walk-ins.
 - iii. If a walk-in is not yet registered on the EVDS, they will need to be registered on the EVDS at the site before they can be vaccinated.
 - iv. Public sector sites may accept walk-ins over 60 at their own discretion – subject to 4(b)(i), 4(b)(ii) and 4(b)(iii)
 - v. Private sector sites may accept insured walk-ins over 60 at their own discretion – subject to 4(b)(i), 4(b)(ii) and 4(b)(iii)
 - vi. Private sector sites dealing with uninsured walk-ins should note that:
 - 1. The NDOH will not pay for uninsured walk-ins to private sites. These individuals are to be referred to public sites.
 - 2. The exception is that private sector sites are authorised to vaccinate uninsured walk-ins aged over 80 years, and to reclaim the cost from the state.
 - 3. This cohort is not expected to exceed 5% of the private sector site’s vaccine allocation.
- c. Proof of age includes an ID, a passport or driver’s license.
- d. Walk-ins are not guaranteed to receive a vaccine on the day of registration or at all, and may be required to return on another day, depending on site capacity.

e. Where practical, vaccine sites are advised to set up separate and clearly marked queues for walk-ins, to ensure that individuals with appointments scheduled by the EVDS are prioritized.

5. Cost and Reimbursement Guidance

a. All vaccines are free to the individual at the point of administration, both for those who are uninsured and insured.

b. No vaccination site may charge any fee to the individual presenting themselves for vaccination.

c. The vaccine cost and the vaccine administration cost for uninsured vaccinees will be covered by the state and for insured vaccinees by their medical schemes.

d. Wherever possible uninsured individuals will be directed to public sites and insured individuals to private sector sites.

e. Where an uninsured individual is scheduled by the EVDS to a private vaccination site, the state will cover the vaccine cost and vaccine administration cost.

f. Where an insured individual is scheduled by the EVDS, or is a walk-in to a public vaccination site, the state will recover the vaccine cost and vaccine administration cost from the insured individual's medical scheme.

g. The state will only reimburse private sites for the vaccine cost and vaccine administration costs for uninsured walk-ins over the age of 80, up to a limit of 5% of the site's vaccine allocation.

h. The reimbursement mechanism for this will be in line with the provisions of the Sales and Distribution agreement.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke, positioned above a solid horizontal line.

DR SSS BUTHELEZI
DIRECTOR-GENERAL: HEALTH
DATE: 04/06/2021