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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
COVID-19 VACCINATORS

SUBJECT: PREFERENTIAL USE OF J&J COVID-19 VACCINES TO REACH RURAL AND HARD-TO-REACH COMMUNITIES

The COVID-19 Vaccination programme continuously strives to vaccinate as many people as possible, and to ensure that everyone has equal and fair access to vaccination. In order to ensure equitable access to vaccination, provincial departments of health and private sector groups are requested to prioritise the use of the Johnson & Johnson (J&J) COVID-19 vaccine in rural areas, and in pop-up and other mobile outreach sites. The reasons for this recommendation are as follows:

- The J&J vaccine has a longer shelf life than the Pfizer vaccine, meaning it can be stored for longer periods of time in rural areas where uptake might not be as high as in urban areas;
- People who are vaccinated at fixed vaccination sites (including fixed outreach sites) in urban areas are more likely to be able to return for the second dose of a two-dose regimen. The J&J vaccine is a one dose regimen meaning that people living in rural areas, and those reached through pop-up and mobile sites, will not need to return for a second dose.

The definition that should be used to determine whether a vaccination site is situated in a rural area is:

- If the population density of the sub-district in which the site is situated is less than 80 people per square km, the site is regarded as rural;
- If the population density is more than 80 people per square km, the site is not rural.

The list of sub-districts which are regarded as rural (as well as the source data for this allocation) have been shared with the provincial vaccine coordinators and supply chain teams. An appendix indicating which sub-districts are considered rural has been included with this circular.

Given the limited resources in South Africa, it is essential that we use the right vaccines in the right areas, ensuring all our people have fair and equitable access to vaccination. Once the supply pipeline of J&J vaccines stabilises, we will revise this guidance and extend the use of the vaccine to additional areas/sites.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nicholas Crisp". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

DR NICHOLAS CRISP
ACTING DIRECTOR-GENERAL: HEALTH
DATE: 14 September 2021

Appendix A: Table showing which sub-districts are classified as rural

MFL Subdistrict	Province	District
Amahlathi LM	Eastern Cape	Amathole
Blue Crane Route LM	Eastern Cape	Sarah Baartman
Mhlontlo LM	Eastern Cape	OR Tambo
Enoch Mgijima LM	Eastern Cape	Chris Hani
Ndlambe LM	Eastern Cape	Sarah Baartman
Ngqushwa LM	Eastern Cape	Amathole
Engcobo LM	Eastern Cape	Chris Hani
Umzimvubu LM	Eastern Cape	Alfred Nzo
Matatiele LM	Eastern Cape	Alfred Nzo
Elundini LM	Eastern Cape	Joe Gqabi
Senqu LM	Eastern Cape	Joe Gqabi
Emalahleni LM	Eastern Cape	Chris Hani
Great Kei LM	Eastern Cape	Amathole
Sundays River Valley LM	Eastern Cape	Sarah Baartman
Kou-Kamma LM	Eastern Cape	Sarah Baartman
Kouga LM	Eastern Cape	Sarah Baartman
Makana LM	Eastern Cape	Sarah Baartman
Dr B Naude LM	Eastern Cape	Sarah Baartman
Mnquma LM	Eastern Cape	Amathole
Inxuba Yethemba LM	Eastern Cape	Chris Hani
Intsika Yethu LM	Eastern Cape	Chris Hani
Sakhisizwe LM	Eastern Cape	Chris Hani
Walter Sisulu LM	Eastern Cape	Joe Gqabi
Raymond Mhlaba LM	Eastern Cape	Amathole
Mohokare LM	Free State	Xhariep
Matjhabeng LM	Free State	Lejweleputswa
Phumelela LM	Free State	Thabo Mofutsanyana
Kopanong LM	Free State	Xhariep
Masilonyana LM	Free State	Lejweleputswa
Nketoana LM	Free State	Thabo Mofutsanyana
Ngwathe LM	Free State	Fezile Dabi
Mantsopa LM	Free State	Thabo Mofutsanyana
Moqhaka LM	Free State	Fezile Dabi
Letsemeng LM	Free State	Xhariep
Mafube LM	Free State	Fezile Dabi
Setsoto LM	Free State	Thabo Mofutsanyana
Tswelopele LM	Free State	Lejweleputswa
Nala LM	Free State	Lejweleputswa
Tokologo LM	Free State	Lejweleputswa
Mangaung MM	Free State	
Dihlabeng LM	Free State	Thabo Mofutsanyana
Midvaal LM	Gauteng	Sedibeng
Lesedi LM	Gauteng	Sedibeng

uMshwathi LM	KwaZulu-Natal	uMgungundlovu
AbaQulusi LM	KwaZulu-Natal	Zululand
Emadlangeni LM	KwaZulu-Natal	Amajuba
Ulundi LM	KwaZulu-Natal	Zululand
Msinga LM	KwaZulu-Natal	Umzinyathi
Richmond LM	KwaZulu-Natal	uMgungundlovu
uPhongolo LM	KwaZulu-Natal	Zululand
eDumbe LM	KwaZulu-Natal	Zululand
Nkandla LM	KwaZulu-Natal	King Cetshwayo
Mpofana LM	KwaZulu-Natal	uMgungundlovu
Mthonjaneni LM	KwaZulu-Natal	King Cetshwayo
uMhlabuyalingana LM	KwaZulu-Natal	Umkhanyakude
Gr Kokstad LM	KwaZulu-Natal	Harry Gwala
Jozini LM	KwaZulu-Natal	Umkhanyakude
Ubuhlebezwe LM	KwaZulu-Natal	Harry Gwala
Impendle LM	KwaZulu-Natal	uMgungundlovu
uMngeni LM	KwaZulu-Natal	uMgungundlovu
Big 5 Hlabisa LM	KwaZulu-Natal	Umkhanyakude
Umvoti LM	KwaZulu-Natal	Umzinyathi
Inkosi Langalibalele LM	KwaZulu-Natal	Uthukela
Endumeni LM	KwaZulu-Natal	Umzinyathi
Dannhauser LM	KwaZulu-Natal	Amajuba
Dr N Dlamini Zuma LM	KwaZulu-Natal	Harry Gwala
Mkhambathini LM	KwaZulu-Natal	uMgungundlovu
Okhahlamba LM	KwaZulu-Natal	Uthukela
Thabazimbi LM	Limpopo	Waterberg
Blouberg LM	Limpopo	Capricorn
Ba-Phalaborwa LM	Limpopo	Mopani
Musina LM	Limpopo	Vhembe
Mogalakwena LM	Limpopo	Waterberg
Mookgophong/Modimolle LM	Limpopo	Waterberg
Ephraim Mogale LM	Limpopo	Sekhukhune
Collins Chabane LM	Limpopo	Vhembe
Makhado LM	Limpopo	Vhembe
Lephalale LM	Limpopo	Waterberg
Maruleng LM	Limpopo	Mopani
E Motsoaledi LM	Limpopo	Sekhukhune
Greater Giyani LM	Limpopo	Mopani
Molemole LM	Limpopo	Capricorn
Lepelle-Nkumpi LM	Limpopo	Capricorn
Bela-Bela LM	Limpopo	Waterberg
Dr Pixley Ka Isaka Seme LM	Mpumalanga	Gert Sibande
Lekwa LM	Mpumalanga	Gert Sibande
Mkhondo LM	Mpumalanga	Gert Sibande
Steve Tshwete LM	Mpumalanga	Nkangala
Thaba Chweu LM	Mpumalanga	Ehlanzeni

Msukaligwa LM	Mpumalanga	Gert Sibande
Victor Khanye LM	Mpumalanga	Nkangala
Chief Albert Luthuli LM	Mpumalanga	Gert Sibande
Bushbuckridge LM	Mpumalanga	Ehlanzeni
Emakhazeni LM	Mpumalanga	Nkangala
Dipaleseng LM	Mpumalanga	Gert Sibande
R Moiloa LM	North West	Ngaka Modiri Molema
Maquassi Hills LM	North West	Dr Kenneth Kaunda
Naledi LM	North West	Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati
Greater Taung LM	North West	Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati
Ratlou LM	North West	Ngaka Modiri Molema
Mamusa LM	North West	Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati
JB Marks LM	North West	Dr Kenneth Kaunda
Moses Kotane LM	North West	Bojanala
Ditsobotla LM	North West	Ngaka Modiri Molema
Kgetlengrivier LM	North West	Bojanala
Kagisano-Molopo LM	North West	Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati
Tswaing LM	North West	Ngaka Modiri Molema
Lekwa-Teemane LM	North West	Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati
Karoo Hoogland LM	Northern Cape	Namakwa
Magareng LM	Northern Cape	Frances Baard
Ubuntu LM	Northern Cape	Pixley ka Seme
Dawid Kruiper LM	Northern Cape	ZF Mgcawu
Nama Khoi LM	Northern Cape	Namakwa
Siyathemba LM	Northern Cape	Pixley ka Seme
Tsantsabane LM	Northern Cape	ZF Mgcawu
Richtersveld LM	Northern Cape	Namakwa
Khai-Ma LM	Northern Cape	Namakwa
Renosterberg LM	Northern Cape	Pixley ka Seme
Joe Morolong LM	Northern Cape	John Taolo Gaetsewe
Ga-Segonyana LM	Northern Cape	John Taolo Gaetsewe
Gamagara LM	Northern Cape	John Taolo Gaetsewe
Kai !Garib LM	Northern Cape	ZF Mgcawu
Thembelihle LM	Northern Cape	Pixley ka Seme
Phokwane LM	Northern Cape	Frances Baard
!Kheis LM	Northern Cape	ZF Mgcawu
Kamiesberg LM	Northern Cape	Namakwa
Siyancuma LM	Northern Cape	Pixley ka Seme
Emthanjeni LM	Northern Cape	Pixley ka Seme
Kgatelopele LM	Northern Cape	ZF Mgcawu
Umsobomvu LM	Northern Cape	Pixley ka Seme
Kareeberg LM	Northern Cape	Pixley ka Seme
Hantam LM	Northern Cape	Namakwa
Dikgatlong LM	Northern Cape	Frances Baard
Breede Valley LM	Western Cape	Cape Winelands
Matzikama LM	Western Cape	West Coast

Saldanha Bay LM	Western Cape	West Coast
Swellendam LM	Western Cape	Overberg
Hessequa LM	Western Cape	Garden Route
Prince Albert LM	Western Cape	Central Karoo
Bitou LM	Western Cape	Garden Route
Bergrivier LM	Western Cape	West Coast
Oudtshoorn LM	Western Cape	Garden Route
Mossel Bay LM	Western Cape	Garden Route
Swartland LM	Western Cape	West Coast
Laingsburg LM	Western Cape	Central Karoo
Kannaland LM	Western Cape	Garden Route
Knysna LM	Western Cape	Garden Route
Overstrand LM	Western Cape	Overberg
George LM	Western Cape	Garden Route
Cederberg LM	Western Cape	West Coast
Witzenberg LM	Western Cape	Cape Winelands
Theewaterskloof LM	Western Cape	Overberg
Cape Agulhas LM	Western Cape	Overberg
Beaufort West LM	Western Cape	Central Karoo
Langeberg LM	Western Cape	Cape Winelands