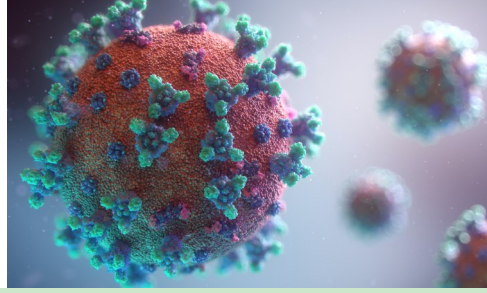




NEWS ALERT

COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATE 28 JANUARY 2022



New Omicron mutation highlights importance of COVID-19 vaccination

HOT OFF THE PRESS:



A new version of the highly contagious Omicron variant is spreading through Asia and Europe, and has also been found in the USA. Virologists are still studying the characteristics of the mutation, known as B.A. 2, and warn that we will likely see more variants emerge as time passes.



Some people mistakenly think that Omicron is “mild” and therefore decreases the need for vaccination. In fact, the variant can still cause severe disease in some, and many people around the world continue to die or end up in the ICU.



A week ago, a Czech folk singer opposed to having a coronavirus vaccine died after intentionally contracting COVID-19 in the belief that “natural” immunity would protect her better than the vaccine. Widespread social media posts about Omicron just being a “bad cold” are influencing people against getting vaccinated, putting them at risk of severe illness, hospitalisation and death.



The COVID-19 virus continues to evolve and mutate, so it is impossible to predict when the pandemic will end. With a fifth wave of COVID-19 infections predicted for South Africa when we enter winter this year, taking proven precautions can still prevent illness: get vaccinated and boosted, wear high-quality masks, improve ventilation and avoid crowds indoors.

If you are 12 years or older, register and get vaccinated:
vaccine.enroll.gov.za
WhatsApp REGISTER to: 0600 123 456
Free SMS: *134*832#
Call 0860 142 142 weekdays 8AM–8PM
In person at a vaccination site

Until everyone has been fully vaccinated, it is important to protect those around you by adhering strictly to COVID-19 safety protocols:



Wear a mask



Sanitise your hands regularly



Maintain social distancing

CareWorks Contact Centre: 0800 24 36 72

Weekdays: 8AM to 5PM and Weekends: 8AM to 1PM

WhatsApp: 082 735 4472

