



NEWS ALERT

COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATE 29 OCTOBER 2021



Will South Africans get COVID-19 vaccine booster shots?

HOT OFF THE PRESS:



A vaccine booster shot is an additional dose of a vaccine, typically given after the protection provided by the original dose has started to wear off, or if new viral variants emerge, in order to help people maintain their level of immunity for longer.



Scientists currently think people who have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19 might need booster shots within 12-18 months (much like the annual flu vaccine).



The COVID-19 vaccines are developed to protect against hospitalisation, severe disease and death. At present, the vaccines used in South Africa remain highly effective.



The primary focus of the South African COVID-19 vaccination programme is to vaccinate as much of the population as possible, so booster shots are not a priority.



The Sisonke study, which saw almost 500 000 health workers receive the one-shot J&J vaccine at the beginning of the year, has now approached SAHPRA for permission to give participants a booster shot of the same J&J vaccine. Their request is under review to ascertain whether a second shot will be both safe and effective for the country's health workers.



Booster shots are not presently being administered in South Africa. However, the Department of Health has announced that should the need for booster shots arise, we have enough vaccines available.

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 access to vaccines, 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

