



# NEWS ALERT

## COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATE 14 JANUARY 2022



South Africa's Omicron wave is subsiding

### **HOT OFF THE PRESS:**



All indicators in South Africa suggest that the country has passed the peak of the fourth wave of COVID-19 infections. Meanwhile, COVID-19 cases driven by the Omicron variant have soared in other countries.



New cases in the US are at an all-time high this week, with Europe and Asia also experiencing record numbers of new infections. This is largely due to the fact that Omicron adheres to human cells more easily than previous variants, making it highly transmissible. Its high rate of asymptomatic carriers is an additional factor driving the rapid and widespread dissemination of



Both Europe and the US have been rolling out booster shots as fast as they can following research that the extra doses significantly increase the level of protection against the variant.



Fortunately, most people infected with Omicron appear to develop milder illness than with the Delta variant, and are less likely to end up in hospital. As with all other variants, people who are fully vaccinated appear to recover more quickly from illness.



All currently approved vaccines continue to provide good protection against severe disease and death, including for Omicron. Pfizer is developing a COVID-19 vaccine targeting the Omicron variant, and expects it to be ready for distribution in March.

If you are 12 years or older, register and get vaccinated:

[vaccine.enroll.gov.za](https://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