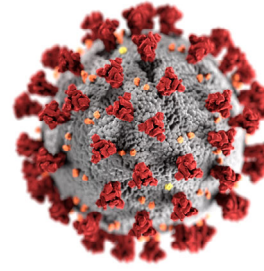




# NEWS ALERT

## COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATE 17 DECEMBER 2021



### Omicron update

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



Omicron is the dominant variant in South Africa, thought to account for over 90% of new infections and largely responsible for the fourth wave we are currently experiencing.



Omicron is more infectious than previous variants. Not only does this mean it is spreading faster and more easily, it also means that risk of reinfection is higher. For those who were infected with the Delta variant, their risk of reinfection is 40% higher. Those first infected with the Beta variant face a 60% increase in risk.



Common symptoms of Omicron infection include severe exhaustion, a scratchy throat, dry cough, headache, mild fever, night sweats and body ache.



So far, despite the huge increase in infections, there have been fewer cases of severe illness. By far, the highest number of people requiring hospitalisation are the unvaccinated.



Vaccination remains effective against Omicron. Not only does being fully vaccinated lower your risk of infection, it also offers excellent protection against severe illness and hospitalisation should you become infected. It is vital that as many people as possible get vaccinated, and that those eligible get their booster shots as soon as they are able!

This is our last Vaccine Assist Alert for 2021.  
We will return in the third week of January.  
We wish you a safe, healthy and happy festive season.

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