



NEWS ALERT

COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATE 10 DECEMBER 2021



SAHPRA approves a third Pfizer vaccine booster dose

HOT OFF THE PRESS:



SAHPRA (the South African Health Products Regulatory Authority) has approved a third Pfizer vaccine as a booster dose against COVID-19. The booster dose is available to all adults over 18 years, and should be taken 6 months after receiving the second dose.



Pfizer announced this week that tests show that three doses of their COVID-19 vaccine may offer increased protection against the Omicron variant of the virus. They warned that two doses without the booster "may not be sufficient to protect against infection."



SAHPRA has not yet approved a "mix and match" approach. In other words, no mixing of the J&J and Pfizer vaccines. However, J&J booster jabs for health workers who received J&J vaccines as part of the Sisonke Trial have been available since 10 November.



The Omicron variant was first identified in early November, and is now present in at least 57 countries around the world. It is the reason COVID cases have increased so dramatically in South Africa in the last week.



Preliminary data seems to suggest that while the Omicron variant spreads more easily than the Delta variant, it could cause less severe illness. However, experts caution that this is based on a small sample size, and most of the people admitted to hospitals are under the age of 40. As the clinical profile of patients changes, the impact of Omicron could change.

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