



# NEWS ALERT

## COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATE 18 MARCH 2022



**FACT CHECK: unvaccinated more likely to get Omicron than fully vaccinated, boosted**

### *HOT OFF THE PRESS:*



As the new, highly transmissible Omicron subvariant (known as BA.2) fuels new infections across the world, dangerous misinformation is spreading equally quickly across social media. False claims are being made that the vaccinated are more likely to be infected than the unvaccinated, and that COVID vaccines accelerate infection and transmission.



All data to date proves this to be utterly untrue. Vaccines remain highly effective at protecting people from infection, and from preventing serious illness and hospitalisation in those who are infected.



The misinformation appears to be based on a misunderstanding of recent scientific reports released in Europe, Canada and Israel. These reports show that vaccinated adults make up the largest number of COVID-19 cases reported so far this year. However, in all of these places, fully vaccinated people make up the vast majority of the population, so it stands to reason that there will be more vaccinated people testing positive.



The best available evidence clearly shows that unvaccinated people are more likely to contract the Omicron variant than those who are fully vaccinated, and that they are also more likely to be hospitalised or die due to COVID-19. People who have had their booster shots have even more protection.



With South Africa likely to enter its fifth COVID-19 wave this winter, with some predicting it as early as late April, now is the perfect time to get vaccinated and boosted.

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