

COVID-19

VACCINES

WHAT EMPLOYEES NEED TO KNOW

What is a vaccine?

Vaccines assist the immune system to mount a response against diseases. It is made in different ways; it may contain whole inactive virus, live attenuated (weakened) virus, protein subunits of the virus or virus like particles. Vaccines may also contain other ingredients that preserve or help them work.

All vaccines are tested in laboratories – prior to clinical trials or testing in humans - to ensure that they are safe before they are allowed to be distributed to the population.

Vaccine Rollout

The South African rollout of the vaccines will take a phased approach. Vaccination in the country commenced on 18 February 2021, beginning with Health Workers. On 17 May 2021, the rollout was extended to South African citizens over 60 years of age.

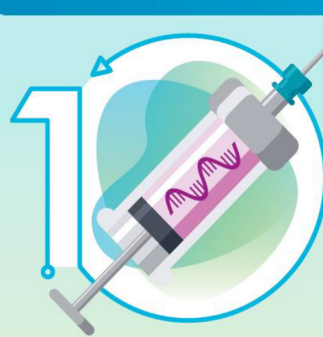
Further details on the rollout will be made available by the National Department of Health as the process unfolds.

Where to register?

Workers who choose to be vaccinated can register on the Electronic Vaccination Data System (EVDS) on the Department of Health website. Thereafter, you will be contacted via text messaging on how to proceed and will be directed on the time and location for the vaccination. All those vaccinated will be placed on a national register and be provided with a vaccination card.

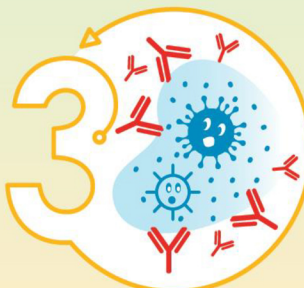
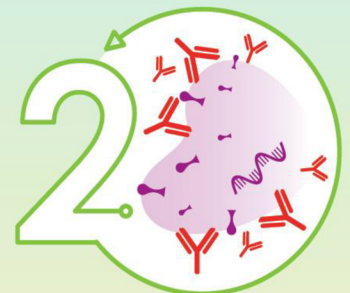
To find out more about the vaccine programme:
<https://sacoronavirus.co.za/evds/>

HOW VACCINES WORK



Vaccines work by imitating a bacteria or virus using either mRNA or a dead or weakened version of the bacteria or virus.

The vaccine raises the body's alarm. It trains the body to recognize and fight the virus.



When the body encounters the real-deal virus, it is primed and ready to fight for the body's health.



OSF HEALTHCARE

What employers should do:

- ✎ Develop a workplace COVID-19 vaccination strategy (with specific attention paid to leave, handling post vaccination side effects and updated statistics on vaccinated workers)
- ✎ Develop awareness & communication plans for sharing credible information (e.g. information on vaccines, prevention plans and outbreak updates)
- ✎ Continue to advocate and practice COVID-19 non-pharmaceutical interventions (hand washing, hand sanitising, wearing masks, social distancing) whether you had or have not had the COVID-19 vaccine

Vaccines save lives. By getting the COVID-19 vaccination you reduce the risk of having severe disease, or worse outcome should you get infected.