



FREE STATE PROVINCE

STAY SAFE WEEKLY

THE FREE STATE PROVINCE'S COVID-19 WEEKLY UPDATE

ISSUE 5: 31 May 2021 - 6 June 2021

PROVINCIAL COVID-19 STATISTICS AS OF 6 JUNE 2021

CONFIRMED CASES - 104 073

TOTAL DEATHS - 4452

RECOVERIES - 87%

VACCINATIONS - 69 690

PROVINCIAL BUILDINGS CLOSED FOR COVID-19 DECONTAMINATION THIS WEEK:

- 31 MAY : 10 111 CENTRE BLOEMFONTEIN
- 2 JUNE : DEALESVILLE SAPS
- 4 JUNE : MAFUBE SAPS



STAY SAFE

VACCINATE TO SAVE SOUTH AFRICA

TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT CORONAVIRUS

Slow Covid vaccine uptake a concern for FS Health

Only 33% of people who are 60 years old and above have received Covid-19 vaccinations in the Free State so far. According to the FS Department of Health there are 288 000 persons who are 60 years old and above in the Province and all of them need to be vaccinated by the end of June. The Free State Department of Health is now pulling out all the stops to complete the vaccination drive within the targeted time frame. The FS Department of Health's Dr Boitumelo Fanampe says: "The sooner we get them vaccinated the sooner we can move to the next trench which includes the vaccination of essential workers".



The slow uptake of vaccinations has been attributed to various challenges in the Province including lack of in-

formation, and vaccine hesitancy. People who are 60 years old and above will still be allowed

to get vaccinated after June, although the vaccine campaign will no longer be specifically focused on them.



Educators, get ready to be vaccinated

Government has moved at prioritising educators for the next trench of the phase 2 Covid-19 vaccinations. National government will set out to vaccinate 480 000 Department of Basic Education officials, Free State Education accounts for 27 000 members of that pie. Over the past two months, the

FS Department of Education has been plagued by hundreds of Coronavirus infections. By the end of the June, FS Health will endeavour to vaccinate all teaching, non-teaching and support staff in the Province. The School-Work based pro-

gramme will run for two weeks before the end of June. The exact date of the beginning of the vaccinations will be announced by the National Department of Health once it is confirmed. The vaccination of Education officials will take place in parallel with that of persons who are 60 years old and above.

CORONAVIRUS 24 HOUR HOTLINE NUMBER: 0800 029 999 COVID-19 WHATSAPP NUMBER: 0600 123456
SISONKE SAFETY NUMBER: 0800 014 856 DEPT OF HEALTH FREE STATE: 0800 535554

Pfizer 2nd jab waiting period now extended to 42 days



The department of Health has announced an extension of the dosing interval for the Pfizer Covid-19 vaccine. The Pfizer vaccine consists of a 2 dose regimen. Initially Phase 3 of the Pfizer clinical trials showed efficacy of the 21 day dosing interval between the first and second dose. New evidence now supports a 42-day interval between the first and second doses. This means that instead of waiting 21 days between the two Pfizer jabs, it is now safe to wait 42 days between the jabs.

This recommendation may still be amended should further data become available. According to a statement by the Department of Health, the Ministerial Advisory Committee on Covid-19 Vaccines (VMAC) has made various considerations before procuring the Pfizer vaccine. The considerations include the vaccine: safety, efficacy, ease of use, logistic implications, supply and sustainability, cost, as well as registration with the South African Health Products Authority, for use by South African citizens.

GCIS Launches Vaccine Awareness Drive

Keep your eyes peeled for the GCIS Vaccine Awareness Digital Truck and Theatre Production moving across your District or Metro. The Digital Truck is scheduled to move around Free State on the dates below:

Date	District/ Metro	Venue	Time
Tuesday, 8 June	Xhariep	Jacobsdal Taxi Rank	07:30 – 09:00
		Koffiefontein Taxi Rank	11:00 – 12:30
Wednesday, 9 June	Mangaung	Lemo Mall	09:00 -10:30
		Botshabelo Mall	13:00 – 14:30
Thursday , 10 June	Thabo Mofutsanyana	Ficksburg Taxi Rank	07:30 – 09:00
		Setsing Taxi rank	13:30 – 15:00
Friday , 11 June	Lejweleputswa	Virginia Taxi Rank	09:00 -10:30
		Boitumelo Mall	12:30 – 14:00
Saturday , 12 June	Fezile Dabi	Maokeng Mall	09:00 -10:30
		Sasolburg Zio Square	15:30 – 17:00

SA Red Cross partners with Boxter Superstores in vaccine drive



The South African Red Cross Society has intensified efforts to register persons who are 60 years old and above for vaccinations. This week, the SA Red Cross partnered with Boxter Superstores to access persons who are 60 years old and above

during their monthly grant payments. Boxter Superstores also serve as SASSA payment points in many parts of the Free State. This week the SA Red Cross conducted vaccine registration drives in QwaQwa, Welkom,



Bloemfontein and Kroonstad. The SA Red Cross Provincial Manager, Claudia Mangwagape said the only concern with the vaccination drive is the amount of vaccine hesitancy SA Red Cross volunteers are encountering. "Elders are telling us that their

children told them that vaccines are a scam," said Mangwagape. Young people are encouraged to refrain from deterring elder persons from receiving Covid-19 vaccinations which are intended to save their lives.

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