



FREE STATE PROVINCE

# STAY SAFE WEEKLY

## THE FREE STATE PROVINCE'S COVID-19 WEEKLY UPDATE

ISSUE 7: 14 June 2021 - 20 June 2021

PROVINCIAL COVID-19 STATISTICS AS OF 20 JUNE 2021

CONFIRMED CASES - 110 296

TOTAL DEATHS - 4662

RECOVERIES - 87%

VACCINATIONS - 118 714

### PROVINCIAL BUILDINGS CLOSED FOR COVID-19 DECONTAMINATION

#### THIS WEEK:

- 16 JUNE: CLOCOLAN SAPS
- 17 JUNE: KOFFIEFONTEIN SAPS



**STAY SAFE**

VACCINATE TO SAVE SOUTH AFRICA

TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT CORONAVIRUS



Free State Education MEC, Tate Makgoe is photographed with educators

## Free State celebrates 100 000 Covid-19 vaccinations!



Since March the Free State Department of Health has been on an aggressive drive to vaccinate healthcare workers as well as people who are 60 years old and above.

On 16 June the Provincial Covid-19 vaccination drive finally hit the 100 000 people mark.

So far Mangaung has vaccinated the most people followed by Lejweleputswa, Thabo Mofutsanyana, Fezile Dabi and lastly Xhariep.

The ultimate goal is to vaccinate the entire Provincial population and guarantee herd immunity across the Province.

The National Covid-19 vaccination drive has also hit the 2 million vaccination milestone as of 18 June.

Despite celebrations, the Free State vaccination rate still lags behind other Provinces including: Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, Western Cape, Limpopo and Eastern Cape respectively.

## Drive to Vaccinate Educators Gets the Green Light!

On Wednesday, 23 June the programme to vaccinate Educators will officially kick off.

The 10 day programme will set out to vaccinate 16 800 officials of the Department of Basic Education (DBE) in the Free State.

Targeted audiences include: educators, admin-

istrative and support staff at public schools and only educators at Independent schools.

Unlike with the previous EVDS system, this time DBE officials across the Province will not be able to schedule individual Covid-19 vaccination appointments.

Instead, officials working

in the Education sector will be verified using lists or letters signed off by school principals.

Those that are not bulk uploaded by the Department of Education will hence not be able to register or receive vaccines on-site.

Before getting vaccinated DBE officials will be requested to produce their

Cellphone numbers and medical aid details, if applicable.

Education stakeholders are reminded that although Covid-19 vaccines are not compulsory, they are highly recommended to ensure the protection not only the schooling sector but the community as a whole.

# DID YOU KNOW?

that you are **NOT ELIGIBLE** to receive a Covid-19 vaccine if you fall under the following criteria?

- ✓ Any person that contracted Covid-19 in the past 30 days
- ✓ Any person that was vaccinated using another vaccine (Pfizer or J&J under the Sisonke study).
- ✓ Any person that received the flu vaccine in the past 14 days.
- ✓ Any person that is pregnant

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

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## UNICEF sponsors digital truck in FS for vaccine awareness

In an effort to bolster the Province fight against the Covid-19 pandemic, UNICEF sponsored a digital truck to create public awareness around Covid-19 and vaccines.

The vaccine awareness drive ran from 14-20 June.

The UNICEF truck was deployed to various District for vaccine registration, community engagement and demand creation.

On Monday, 14 June 2021 the UNICEF truck launched its work in Bloemfontein.

On 15 June, Welkom was targeted next as it is neighbouring mining towns with impact on cross-border infections.

On 16 June, Sasolburg was targeted because it's a seamless border between Free State and Gauteng.

On 17 June, Villiers and Frankfort were targeted because of their proximity to the N3 which facilitates movement between people in Gaut-

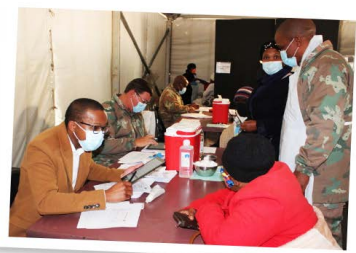
eng, Free State, Mpumalanga, and KwaZulu-Natal.

On 18 June the UNICEF truck made a final stop in QwaQwa which has been plagued by a high rate of Covid-19 infections.

According to the Free State MEC for Health, Montseng Tsiu the work of the UNICEF truck is an important element of our Risk Communication and Community Engagement Strategy because it ensures that the communities are aware of the work that government is doing.

The truck was escorted by several stakeholders with an interest in Covid-19 vaccines including: the South African Red Cross Society, Right-2Care, Provincial Government Stakeholders, and Municipalities.

Members of the public are encouraged to keep an eye out for various Provincial campaigns that will be conducted to create awareness around Covid-19.



## President switches gears to Level 3 Lockdown!

On 15 June, President Cyril Ramaphosa announced a move to Alert Level 3 Lockdown as the country grapples with the third wave of the Coronavirus outbreak.

During his address, the President once again listed the Free State amongst the Provinces accounting for the bulk of national Covid-19 infections; other Provinces include Gauteng, Limpopo, Western Cape and KwaZulu-Natal.

President Ramaphosa cautioned citizens to avoid letting their guard down around familiar people and loved ones.

"We must remember that many people who are infected with Covid-19 do not show any symptoms. The person who may be sitting next to you in a taxi, who may be a co-worker, or a friend or even a family member at a social gathering may be infected," warned the President.

Some of the regulations that will be implemented with the adjusted alert level include the following:

- The hours of curfew will start at 10pm and end at 4am.
- Non-essential establishments like restaurants, bars and fitness centres will need to close by 9pm to allow their employees and patrons to travel home before the start of the curfew.
- All gatherings will be limited to a maximum of 50 people indoors and 100 people outdoors.

• Attendance at funerals and cremations may not exceed 50 people and all social distancing and health protocols must be observed.

- Night vigils, after-funeral gatherings and 'after-tears' gatherings are not allowed.
- The sale of alcohol from retail outlets for off-site consumption will only be permitted between 10am and 6pm from Monday to Thursday. This excludes public holidays.



## Premier joins UNICEF vaccine drive in Frankfort

On Thursday Premier, Sefora Ntombela led an effort to register citizens for vaccinations in Frankfort.

The campaign in the Mafube Local Municipality is part of a Provincial effort to create public awareness around Covid-19.

During the activation, Premier engaged members of the public about Covid-19 vaccinations

and even joined South African Red Cross Society volunteers in handing out sanitizers to street vendors.

Premier Ntombela has encouraged all Free State Provincial citizens to resist the urge to get Covid-19 fatigued and continue to abide by non-pharmaceutical Covid-19, preventative protocols.

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