

COVID-19 UPDATE

As the third wave takes hold of the country we now know that the Delta variant which is the one that started in India is driving infections in South Africa. The number of new cases has reached a record high and positivity rates exceed 30%. This third wave is extending hospital capacity to its limits. The scheme has received many notifications from hospitals that they have reached capacity and will need to divert patients. The Delta variant is highly transmissible and we are seeing younger people needing hospitalisation.

Those who have been infected by the Corona Virus in either the first or second wave can still get infected by the Delta variant. The good news is that the two vaccines being used in the country at the moment being Pfizer and Johnson and Johnson have been scientifically proven to work even better against the Delta variant than the previously circulating Beta variant.

Those who are 50 years and older can now register to receive their vaccine. Many of our members over the age of 50 have already started to receive their vaccine. If you wish to go to a Dis-Chem site take note of the information below on how to book an appointment after registering on the EVDS site.

YOU REGISTERED BUT HAVE NOT BEEN VACCINATED

- You should have received an SMS to inform you that you are registered. The EVDS system will send you an SMS with a voucher and tell you which venue to go to.
- You can book an appointment with Dis-Chem if you do not wish to wait . Use this link to make a booking it is very simple.

<https://www.dischem.co.za/covid-19-vaccination>



COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATE

HOW TO REGISTER FOR THE VACCINE

For those over the age of 50 who have not yet registered for the vaccine on the EVDS system this is a **reminder on the different ways in which you can register:**

- Use the **Online System** and click on this link to register :
<https://vaccine.enroll.health.gov.za/#/>
- You can also register via **Whatsapp** by sending the word **REGISTER** to **060 012 3456**.
- **The toll free national hotline link 0800 029 999** can be used. Phone between 08.00 and 18.00 seven days a week.
- You will receive an SMS from the EVDS system to confirm your registration.
- The EVDS system will send you a voucher and the venue where you must go for your vaccination. This is not immediate.
- If you do not want to wait for your voucher you can book an appointment with Dis-Chem.
- **Once you receive your SMS from the EVDS system confirming your registration then you can book an appointment with Dis-Chem if you wish to use one of their sites. Not every Dis-Chem is registered as a vaccine site but there are enough facilities to make them very accessible.**
- Use this link to make a booking, it is very simple.
<https://www.dischem.co.za/covid-19-vaccination>



COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATE

WAITING FOR YOUR SECOND DOSE OF THE PFIZER VACCINE – COMMON QUESTIONS

- If you received the Johnson and Johnson vaccine you do not require a second dose.
- If you have received your first dose of the Pfizer vaccine then you will have received an SMS supplying you with your unique vaccination code. It is important to keep this information safely.
- You would also have been informed that your second dose will be administered to you 42 days after your first shot. It is important to get the second dose to ensure maximum immunity.
- You do not have to go to the same facility where you received your first dose.
- You will be sent an SMS to remind you to go and get this second dose. **It will not be given out sooner than the 42 days.**
- You can choose to go to a Dis-Chem site for your second dose and can make your booking after the 42 days.
- Use this link to make a booking, it is very simple.
<https://www.dischem.co.za/covid-19-vaccination>
- If you have had the vaccine it is still possible to get infected, please continue with all the non-pharmaceutical interventions.

