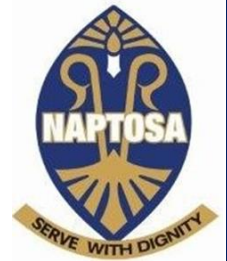


NATIONAL NEWS FLASH



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VACCINES FOR THE EDUCATION SECTOR

[EDUCATORS & EDUCATION SUPPORT PERSONNEL (ESP)]

NAPTOSA is pleased to confirm that 500 000 doses of the J & J vaccine have been secured for the education sector. This is the result of the unwavering effort of the Joint Teacher Unions, the Education Ministry, Researchers, and supporters that ensured this became a reality. At a meeting held on 4 June 2021, with the DG of Department of Basic Education (DBE), the Unions were apprised of how the process will unfold.

Approval/ Arrival of the Vaccine

- The doses were still awaiting approval from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and are anticipated to arrive in South Africa on Saturday 5 June 2021.
- The doses will then undergo testing which is expected to be completed by Monday 7 June 2021.
- The challenge, however, was that the doses have a window of three weeks for distribution and administration of the vaccine.
- It is anticipated that the vaccination process will commence on Wednesday, 9 June 2021.

Vaccination Process is as follows:

- A National Task Team [consisting of senior managers of DBE and the Department of Health (DOH)] will coordinate and guide the education sector vaccination has been established.
- DBE will provide the data to DOH of all the targeted employees for registration on the EVDS.
- Registration will be automatic. DOH will communicate and confirm the vaccination schedules per school and district.
- All employees will be allocated sites and dates for vaccination. The sites are yet to be finalised.
- The Public Sector schools will be vaccinated first, thereafter the independent school sector will be included.
- The beneficiaries will **include ALL Teaching and Non-teaching staff** in the public sector, inclusive of SGB funded personnel and staff of teacher unions. Personnel who are above the age of 40 will be vaccinated first.
- The PERSAL data will be used to register employees on the EVDS. DBE will submit the PERSAL data to the DOH and therefore the beneficiaries will not be required to register. The non-PERSAL staff will have their information obtained from relevant data sources.

It must be noted that the **J & J is a single dose vaccine.**

- Employees will be requested to produce their identity document at the vaccination site.
- Employees on medical aid will also be required to provide information on the medical aid scheme. The money will be claimed from the Medical Aid Schemes at a later stage.
- The DBE will engage with stakeholders on the vaccination process and issue a circular to provinces. An address by the Ministers of DOH and DBE is expected soon.
- Vaccination will be voluntary, however, NAPTOSA, together with the other Teacher Unions and DBE urges **ALL eligible Education Sector Staff to embrace this special opportunity to be vaccinated.**
- While NAPTOSA welcomes and endorses the process, we remain concerned about the access for rural schools, the possibility of congestion at sites, and the short time frames.

BASIL MANUEL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR