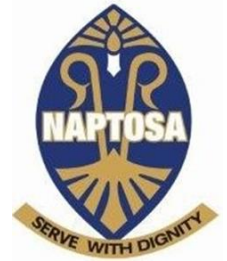


NATIONAL NEWS FLASH



SERVING EDUCATION SINCE 1904

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NNF 29 of 2021

19 June 2021

EDUCATION VACCINATION IS HERE!!

In National News Flash 28 of 2021 members were informed that 300 000 doses of the Johnson and Johnson vaccine have been secured for the education sector of South Africa.

NAPTOSA is pleased to inform members that the doses have indeed arrived in-country and are currently undergoing the required testing by the South African Health Products Regulatory Authority (SAHPRA). Further good news is that an additional 280 000 doses have been procured for the education sector and is expected to arrive on Tuesday, 22 June 2021.

Whereas the initial indication was that the vaccination process would focus on education workers of 40 years and above, the sector is now in a position to vaccinate **all working adults in schools**, both public and private, as well as all officials in district, provincial and national offices. **There is to be no age limitation.**

It is important for members to **note the following**:

- The Department of Health has set aside a two-week period for the vaccination of the education sector to start on Monday or Tuesday, 21/22 June 2021.
- The roll-out process is to start with public schools and thereafter independent schools.
- Provincial education departments will be communicating with principals directly for appointments.
- Principals will inform their staff.
- Scheduling will be done per school to visit the vaccination sites.
- Education workers would need to arrange their own transport to the vaccination sites, but where difficulties are encountered, schools are expected to assist.
- The vaccine to be administered is the Johnson and Johnson vaccine which requires only one injection.
- The expiry date of the vaccine batch is much later than was the case with the initial batch – i.e. there is no cause for concern that the vaccines to be administered have passed their expiry date.

Unfortunately, some members will be excluded from receiving the vaccine. According to information received from the DBE, persons who contracted COVID-19 in the past 30 days and those who were vaccinated for flu in the past 14 days, should not be COVID-19 vaccinated **at this stage**.

Arrangements will be made for their vaccination when it is safe to do so. Members who fall into any of these categories are advised to inform their principals to ensure that proper record is kept for their later vaccination.

Please note that any member who was vaccinated using another vaccine should not be vaccinated (no re-vaccination).

To ensure that the roll-out process proceeds smoothly, trouble-shooting mechanisms have been put in place per district, while a national team has been set up to support provinces. Throughout the roll-out process, the DBE will hold regular consultation meetings with stakeholders. It is therefore important that any hiccups encountered with the roll-out process be brought to the urgent attention of your NAPTOSA provincial office in order for it to be raised at the national level.

Members are again reminded that the vaccination process is voluntary. However, the roll-out to the education sector presents our country with the unique opportunity to normalise schooling and to seriously begin the process of mitigating the impact of the pandemic. We are still a long way off from reaching herd immunity for the country as a whole. So, for your own protection and the protection of your families, NAPTOSA urges members to utilise this opportunity to receive the vaccination.

As education we are privileged that our sector has been prioritised. Let the efforts of NAPTOSA and the other education unions to achieve this, not go to waste.

BASIL MANUEL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR