

Dear GEMS Member

Important Message on Phase 2 COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout

The National COVID-19 vaccine rollout programme progresses to Phase 2 on 17 May 2021. In Phase 2, as it has been announced, initially those from the age of 60 years and older will be earmarked for vaccination. The balance of the Healthcare workers who were not vaccinated as part of the Sisonke Study will also be earmarked for vaccination.

It is important to reiterate that at the moment these are the only two risk groups who have been requested to register on the Government Electronic Vaccine Data System (EVDS).

The Electronic Vaccine Data System (EVDS) is the official South African Covid-19 Vaccination system for online self-registration at the moment. Therefore, you and/or your dependents will need to register on the EVDS when the Government announces that the risk category which you belong must register. Please be on alert for these government announcements.

To self-register online using the EVDS website click onto the following link: <https://vaccine.enroll.health.gov.za/#/> and follow the steps below:

Step 1: Register on the EVDS

Step 2: The welcome screen will tell you what to do next

Step 3: Follow the instructions. Put in all the details the system asks you for.

Step 4: When you are done, the system will send you an SMS to the phone number you will have provided, confirming registration.

Step 5: When it is your turn to be vaccinated, the system will send you another SMS with a date and the name of the vaccination site.

Vaccination registration queries can be directed to EVDS Support on <https://sacoronavirus.co.za/evds/support/>

Please note the following additional information pertaining to the COVID-19 vaccine rollout process:

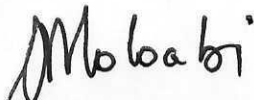
1. Vaccinations will take place at some workplaces once setup, accredited doctor (GP/FP) facilities, pharmacy clinics, some travel clinics, and possible mass vaccination sites as well. The active vaccination sites are placed on the EVDS as they become accredited.

2. For GEMS principal members and other beneficiaries that are part of the Public service, GEMS will be assisting with workplace based vaccination for those who are eligible and registered to be vaccinated for the remainder of Phase 1 and Phase 2 starting on 17 May 2021. The [registration process](#) on EVDS will guide you to the active vaccination center nearest to you. We are working with all accredited vaccination sites to ensure that the process is optimal and that they are all ready. At the moment, this is only for the Healthcare workers and those from the age of 60 years and above.
3. Subsequent announcements by government will inform all of us when the next risk categories are required to register on the EVDS.
4. Once you are registered on the EVDS, it is important to wait for an sms message with your unique Voucher number and the Vaccination site where you have been allocated by the EVDS. Please do not go to any vaccination site until you receive this message.
5. Please note the following important information relating to COVID 19 vaccination:
 - a) Even if you have had COVID-19, it is advisable that you get a COVID-19 vaccination;
 - b) GEMS will pay for your COVID-19 vaccination in full from risk. It will not be covered from your savings or your day to day benefits;
 - c) Please ensure that you provide your medical aid details throughout the registration and vaccination process;
 - d) Since, the Influenza (Flu) vaccination season has also started some may also be taking the annual flu vaccine which GEMS also covers in full without affecting your savings or day to day benefits. All beneficiaries, across all options are covered for one flu vaccination per year.
 - e) Should you take an Influenza or COVID-19 vaccination, it is important to remember that there should be at least 14 days between these vaccinations, so please inform the healthcare vaccinator or vaccination facility of your recent vaccination history.

Contact the GEMS Member Call Centre on 086 000 4367 Monday to Friday from 08:00 to 17:00. We will do our best to guide and support you through this process.

GEMS cares for you and your health and we encourage you get vaccinated.

Yours sincerely



Dr B.O.S. Moloabi
Principal Officer
Date: 16 May 2021