| PROVINCIAL COVID-19 STATISTICS AS OF 14 MAY | CONFIRMED CASES - 93 390 | TOTAL DEATHS -3969 | RECOVERIES - 91% |

PROVINCIAL BUILDINGS IMPACTED BY COVID-19 CLOSURES THIS WEEK:
11 MAY: THEUNISSEN SAPS CLOSED
11 MAY: METPOL SAPS CLOSED
12 MAY : SELOSESHA SAPS CLOSED

I CHOOSE #VacciNation

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Sisonke study comes to an end!

Saturday, 15 May marks the end of the Sisonke study nationally.

The Sisonke Programme is a collaboration between the National Department of Health, South African Medical Research Council, Desmond Tutu Health Foundation, CAPRISA, Janssen and Johnson & Johnson (J&J).

Sisonke has aided government in making the J&J vaccine immediately available to healthcare workers using a research programme.

In the Free State 23 658 people have received the J&J Covid-19 vaccine as of 14 May 2021, through the Sisonke effort. Unvaccinated healthcare workers are invited to be part of the national vaccine rollout which starts, Monday 17 May at public sector sites and 24 May at private sites.

Pfizer vaccine lands in Free State

Premier, Sefora Ntombela and MEC of Health, Montseng Tsiu are set to launch the second phase of the national vaccine rollout in Thekolohelong Welfare and Old Age Home in QwaQwa.

The launch will take place on Monday, 17 May; introducing the administration of the Pfizer Covid-19 vaccine in the Free State for the very first time.

People who are 60 years and older are encouraged to register through the free SMS line *134*832# or by sending a free WhatsApp message to 0600 123 456 and type Register or get assistance to register on the internet.

Applicants will receive an SMS advising them on where they can register. This is to ensure that we avoid long queues that may lead them to getting infected.

Premier Ntombela salutes Nurses on International Nurses Day

Wednesday, 12 May marked the occasion of International Nurses' Day and Premier, Sefora Ntombela honoured the day by the acknowledging the vital role that nurses continue to play in keeping the citizens of the province and the country safe. Since the advent of Covid-19, nurses have come under increasing pressure to ensure the safety of society.

Premier Ntombela thanked each and every nurse in the Free State for their effort in combating Covid-19.

"Being a nurse is a calling and it takes a special type of individual, with compassion and a deep love for the people, to do this type of work. Fortunately, the dedication of our nurses during this difficult period, in the face of danger, when the virus claimed the lives of our people, was nothing short of bravery.

They led from the front and took on the role of a protective parent and shielded us all from danger, often at great personal tragedy," Premier Ntombela said in closing.

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

SA Red Cross kicks off Provincial Vaccine registration Drive

South African Red Cross volunteers are moving across Free State to assist in the registration of people who are 60 years and older for Covid-19 vaccines.

The SA Red Cross roadshow is currently targeting old age homes as they provide sanctuaries to elder citizens.

All Free Staters are urged to be on the lookout for the 120 volunteers wearing regalia with visible Red Cross branding.

On Friday the vaccine registration drive kicked off in Mangaung where it reached: Stillerus Retirement home in Uitsig, Sewedanne Retirement home and Chris Hani Luncheon club.

On the same say the volunteers also conducting Covid-19 educational door to door campaigns in Section C Botshabelo, Selosesha Thaba Nchu and QwaQwa

South African Red Cross: Free State Manager, Claudia Mangwegape said that vaccine hesitancy remains an area of concern in the Province. "Some elders are refusing to register because they believe the registrations are part of a scam while others have been filled with a fear of vaccines by their children"

All Free State citizens are encouraged to rally behind the vaccine rollout out programme and contribute towards creating herd immunity in the Free State.

Do you have relative, loved one or friend who is 60 years or older?

If your answer is your 'yes' then we need your help to get them registered for a Covid-19 vaccine. It only takes a few minutes; help us to protect our elders.

Who is currently eligible to receive a Covid-19 vaccine?
- Healthcare workers
- Traditional healers
- People who are 60 years and older

Why is it important to get vaccinated?
- Getting vaccinated will assist us in achieving herd immunity and prevent ongoing transmission.
- When a person gets vaccinated, their risk of infecting others is also reduced.

How do I register myself or a 60 year old, elder for the Covid-19 vaccine?

It is simple, there are four ways to register:

Method 1: If you have a laptop or smart phone with data visit the COVID-19 Electronic Vaccination Data System on https://vaccine.enroll.health.gov.za and fill out the online forms.

Method 2: If you have access to WhatsApp send: **"REGISTER"** to 0600 123 456.

Method 3: If you **DO NOT** have online access or a smartphone then you can register through **SMS** by dialling *134*832*your ID number#.

If you do not have an ID number, dial *134*832#.

Method 4: If you DO NOT have access to technology you can also register at your nearest vaccination site or with the community health workers doing registration drives across the Province.

NDP 2030

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FREE STATE PROVINCE

THE FREE STATE PROVINCE'S COVID-19 WEEKLY UPDATE

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