



**DIRECTOR GENERAL  
HEALTH  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

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**TO:  
HEADS OF PROVINCIAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS  
DISTRICT, HOSPITAL AND PHC MANAGERS  
COVID-19 VACCINE PROGRAMME MANAGERS  
COVID-19 VACCINATION SITE MANAGERS  
COVID-19 VACCINATORS**

**NATIONAL VACCINATION PROGRAMME CIRCULAR 1 OF 2023**

**UPDATE TO COVID-19 VACCINATION SCHEDULE: ADDITIONAL BOOSTER DOSE  
FOR PERSONS 18 YEARS AND OLDER**

1. From Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> January 2023 **persons 18 years and older** will be eligible to receive an **additional booster dose** providing that a period of at least **180 days** has elapsed since they received their last Covid-19 vaccination.
2. This means that **adults 50 years and older** will be eligible to receive a **total of five doses**, and **adults 18 – 49 years** will be eligible to receive a **total of four doses**.
3. Where available, these doses should be administered using the Comirnaty® vaccine. However COVID-19 vaccine Janssen® may also be used, if the Comirnaty® vaccine is not available or if the person prefers to receive the COVID-19 vaccine Janssen®.
4. The schedule for **persons 50 years and older** will therefore be as follows:

| <b>SCHEDULE FOR PERSON 50 YEARS AND OLDER: Updated 30 January 2023</b> |                                  |                                                                           |                                  |                                                                           |                                      |                                                                           |                                      |                                                                           |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Primary<br/>Schedule</b>                                            | <b>Booster doses</b>             |                                                                           |                                  |                                                                           |                                      |                                                                           |                                      |                                                                           |
| <b>One dose</b>                                                        |                                  |                                                                           |                                  |                                                                           |                                      |                                                                           |                                      |                                                                           |
| COVID-19<br>vaccine<br>Janssen®                                        | Minimum<br>of 60 day<br>interval | COVID-<br>19<br>vaccine<br>Janssen®<br><b>OR</b><br>Comirnaty®<br>Vaccine | Minimum<br>of 90 day<br>interval | COVID-<br>19<br>vaccine<br>Janssen®<br><b>OR</b><br>Comirnaty®<br>Vaccine | Minimum<br>of 120<br>day<br>interval | Comirnaty®<br>Vaccine<br><b>OR</b><br>COVID-<br>19<br>vaccine<br>Janssen® | Minimum<br>of 180<br>day<br>interval | Comirnaty®<br>Vaccine<br><b>OR</b><br>COVID-<br>19<br>vaccine<br>Janssen® |

OR

| <b>SCHEDULE FOR PERSON 50 YEARS AND OLDER: Updated 30 January 2023</b> |                            |                    |                            |                                                              |                             |                                                              |                             |                                                              |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Primary Schedule</b>                                                |                            |                    | <b>Boosteroses</b>         |                                                              |                             |                                                              |                             |                                                              |
| <b>First dose</b>                                                      |                            | <b>Second dose</b> |                            |                                                              |                             |                                                              |                             |                                                              |
| Comirnaty® Vaccine                                                     | Minimum of 21 day interval | Comirnaty® Vaccine | Minimum of 90 day interval | Comirnaty® Vaccine<br><b>OR</b><br>COVID-19 vaccine Janssen® | Minimum of 120 day interval | Comirnaty® Vaccine<br><b>OR</b><br>COVID-19 vaccine Janssen® | Minimum of 180 day interval | Comirnaty® Vaccine<br><b>OR</b><br>COVID-19 vaccine Janssen® |

5. The schedule for adults aged 18 – 49 years will therefore be as follows:

| <b>SCHEDULE FOR ADULTS 18 – 49 YEARS: Updated 30 January 2023</b> |                            |                                                              |                            |                                                              |                             |                                                              |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Primary Schedule</b>                                           | <b>Booster doses</b>       |                                                              |                            |                                                              |                             |                                                              |
| <b>One dose</b>                                                   |                            |                                                              |                            |                                                              |                             |                                                              |
| COVID-19 vaccine Janssen®                                         | Minimum of 60 day interval | COVID-19 vaccine Janssen®<br><b>OR</b><br>Comirnaty® Vaccine | Minimum of 90 day interval | COVID-19 vaccine Janssen®<br><b>OR</b><br>Comirnaty® Vaccine | Minimum of 180 day interval | Comirnaty® Vaccine<br><b>OR</b><br>COVID-19 vaccine Janssen® |

OR

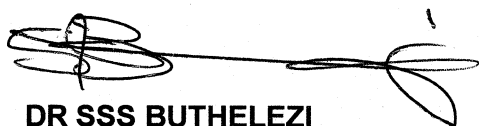
| <b>SCHEDULE FOR ADULTS 18 – 49 YEARS: Updated 30 January 2023</b> |                            |                    |                            |                                                              |                             |                                                              |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Primary Schedule</b>                                           |                            |                    | <b>Booster doses</b>       |                                                              |                             |                                                              |
| <b>First dose</b>                                                 |                            | <b>Second dose</b> |                            |                                                              |                             |                                                              |
| Comirnaty® Vaccine                                                | Minimum of 21 day interval | Comirnaty® Vaccine | Minimum of 90 day interval | Comirnaty® Vaccine<br><b>OR</b><br>COVID-19 vaccine Janssen® | Minimum of 180 day interval | Comirnaty® Vaccine<br><b>OR</b><br>COVID-19 vaccine Janssen® |

6. Adults (18 years and older) who are registered on the EVDS as being immunocompromised will be eligible to receive the additional booster doses providing that a period of 180 days has elapsed since their previous booster dose.

7. The schedule for adolescents 12 - 17 years remains unchanged.

| SCHEDULE FOR ADOLESCENTS 12 – 17 YEARS: Updated 23 February 2022 |                            |                    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Primary Schedule                                                 |                            |                    |
| First dose                                                       |                            | Second dose        |
| Comirnaty® Vaccine                                               | Minimum of 21 day interval | Comirnaty® Vaccine |

8. The EVDS has been updated to accommodate the revised schedule, and vaccinators are reminded that all administered doses must be correctly recorded on the EVDS.



**DR SSS BUTHELEZI**  
**DIRECTOR-GENERAL: HEALTH**

DATE: 23/01/2023