

# COVID-19 VACCINE ROLLOUT

## MEMBERS 60 AND ABOVE



Platinum Health has compiled a set of Questions and Answers to help you make sense of developments in the COVID-19 vaccine rollout.

### How and when should I register to be vaccinated?

The National Department of Health has implemented Phase 2 of the vaccine rollout on 17 May 2021. During Phase 2, members who are 60 years and above can register for and receive the vaccine. To be vaccinated you will need to register using the following channel:

- Electronic Vaccine Data system (EVDS): <http://vaccine/enroll.health.gov.za/#/>



### How do I register if I do not have access to the internet?

- Members without online access or a smartphone can register through SMS by dialing \*134\*832#
- WhatsApp the word REGISTER to 0600 123 456

SMS and WhatsApp registration services are zero-rated; there is no need to have data or airtime to access the service.

Platinum Health has dedicated resources and we're currently in the process of contacting all beneficiaries aged 60 and above to confirm if assistance with registration is required. When PH contacts beneficiaries, you will be requested to give PH consent to register you on the EVDS system.

Based on your registration details, the EVDS system will issue you with your unique voucher number when it is your turn to be vaccinated. Without this voucher, you will not be eligible for vaccination.

### Does Platinum Health have any plans to set up its own vaccination sites?

Platinum Health is in the process of registering facilities as vaccination sites in order to vaccinate members and dependants younger than 60 at these sites. There are however insufficient members 60+ to get accreditation to vaccinate these members at our sites. Platinum Health members are able to access vaccines at any accredited vaccination site as allocated by the EVDS system and Platinum Health will pay the cost of vaccines as well as the administration fee.

### How does the EVDS system decide which vaccination site to send you to for an appointment?

The system will automatically allocate a site to you that is close to the home or work address that you entered. In urban areas, it will allocate a site within 10km of that address and in rural areas a centre within 30km of where you live or work. The time that you choose to be vaccinated when you registered such as the morning or afternoon during weekdays or weekends affects the availability and scheduling of your appointment.

### Can I choose which vaccine I want to be vaccinated with?

Not at this stage, South Africa's national rollout will use both the J&J vaccine along with Pfizer's vaccine. At this stage, only the Pfizer vaccine is available (until the J&J vaccines are released from Aspen's plant in Gqeberha).

There are differences between the two vaccines which will influence how they get distributed across the country. For instance, the vaccines have different cold chain requirements and are also packaged with a different number of doses per pack. Pfizer doses will mainly be used in metros, as these sites can reach a larger number of people and Pfizer requires freezers that are not always readily available in rural areas.

### How much will the Scheme pay for the vaccination and its administration?

The COVID-19 vaccination has been declared as Prescribed Minimum Benefit (PMB) level of care and Medical Schemes are required to fund the full cost of the vaccine and the administration thereof. The National Department of Health has published the COVID-19 vaccination pricing as follows:

- **Pfizer vaccine:** Medical Schemes will be billed R308.48 per dose plus VAT, a total of R354.75 per dose. 2 doses are required. The final cost will be R709.50 and this will be billed after each administration and not together.
- **J&J vaccine:** Medical Schemes will be billed R286.96 plus VAT, a total of R330.00 per dose - only 1 dose is required.
- **Administration of the vaccine fee:** R70 plus VAT, a total of R80.50 per vaccine dose.

All claims for the COVID-19 vaccine will be submitted by the vaccine site. Members will not be submitting claims to the medical scheme. Members should also not pay anything for the vaccine.

*We will continue updating our members as the vaccine rollout unfolds.*