



COVID-19 CIRCULAR NO 3 OF 2021

The Department of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa presents its compliments to Diplomatic Missions and International Organisations accredited to South Africa and has the honour to advise that members of the Diplomatic Corps and their dependents will be offered a COVID-19 vaccination on a voluntary basis at the same time as nationals and other residents of South Africa.

The Department wishes to provide Missions with the following information on this matter:

The South African Government's Sisonke Vaccination Roll-Out Programme provides for access to vaccinations in three phases, namely the following:

Phase 1

The first phase is underway and aims to vaccinate 1.5 million healthcare workers by the end of April 2021.

Phase 2

The second phase will be implemented from May to October 2021 and aims to cover more than 13 million people who are essential workers, persons in congregate settings, persons over sixty-years of age, as well as persons over eighteen years with co-morbidities.

Phase 3

The final phase will be implemented between November 2021 and February 2022 and will target 22.5 million people over the age of eighteen years.

A national register for COVID-19 vaccinations, the Electronic Vaccination Data System (EVDS), has been created and is based on a pre-vaccination registration and appointment system. All those vaccinated, including members of the Diplomatic Corps, will be placed on a national register and provided with a vaccination card. The Department will inform Missions when they can start registering on EVDS for vaccination.

Medical schemes will absorb payment for South African nationals and residents who have medical insurance, while vaccinations for uninsured individuals will be funded by the Government. Members of the Diplomatic Corps and their dependents will not be expected to pay for their vaccination.

The Department will provide further information regarding the Sisonke Vaccination Roll-Out Programme and registration on EVDS as the process unfolds. In the meantime and for planning purposes, the Department would like to request Missions to indicate to Protocol, names of their staff and members of their families who might wish to be vaccinated. All names of staff and members of their families may be forwarded to Ms Hazel Marais at marais@dirco.gov.za or 060 998 9329 by 15 April 2021

The Department of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa avails itself of this opportunity to renew to Diplomatic Missions and International Organisations accredited to the Republic of South Africa the assurances of its highest consideration.

Diplomatic Missions and International Organisations
PRETORIA

