



MINERALS COUNCIL
SOUTH AFRICA



Vooma
Vaccination Week

18 to 22
October

FACT SHEET

We need more people to get vaccinated so **we are all protected**



Today, 5 out of every 10 mineworkers have been vaccinated

TARGET:
MINeworkERS
VACCINATED



80%

▶ **first dose**
31 October

▶ **fully vaccinated**
mid-December

We call on all mineworkers to put some Vooma into vaccination and meet the challenge! By 6 October, 50% of all mining employees and contractors were partially vaccinated, Of those, 60% were fully vaccinated and 40% partially vaccinated.

Vaccination will protect you and those you love from COVID-19. Vaccination is thousands of times safer than catching COVID-19, and it protects you from

getting very sick or dying if you do contract it.

Men are at higher risk of dying from COVID-19 than women, but far fewer men are vaccinating compared to women. Getting vaccinated protects you from the risk of serious illness or even death, and protects your family from having to survive without you.

Vaccinating now means that we can save 20,000 people from dying before the end of the year and will mean we can have the festive season with our friends and family more safely.



#MiningMatters



V = Vooma
= VacciNation
= Victory



YOUR KEY QUESTIONS ANSWERED

1. What do vaccines do?

☞ Vaccines help prepare our immune systems to fight against particular diseases – in this case, against the virus that causes Covid-19. The vaccine tells our bodies to produce T-cells and antibodies. These are cells that our bodies produce naturally to fight infections. If we then get exposed to Covid-19 after being vaccinated, our bodies have already started preparing to fight the Covid-19 virus with our T-cells and antibodies. This means we have built up an immunity to Covid-19. Even if we still get Covid-19, vaccination will ensure we only get mild symptoms.

2. Do they work?

☞ Covid-19 vaccines significantly reduce transmission of Covid, as well as preventing serious illness, hospitalisation and death if a person catches Covid-19, and we have evidence to show that both in South Africa and internationally.

- In the Western Cape, statistics show that for people over 60 years of age, vaccinated people make up only 1.7% of deaths from Covid-19, and only 4% of hospital admissions.
- At Groote Schuur hospital in Cape Town at the beginning of September, of the 156 people hospitalised with Covid-19 only 3 were vaccinated. There were no vaccinated patients in the 66 people who were in ICU or High Care, and no vaccinated patients among the 32 Covid-19 patients who were on ventilators.
- In the UK, it is estimated that by the end of August this year, vaccinations had prevented over 140,000 hospitalisations.
- The British Medical Journal has just published a study showing that, of 40,000 Covid-19 patients admitted to UK hospitals between December 2020 and July this year, 84% had not been vaccinated.

3. If vaccines work, then why do I still need to take precautions?

☞ The vaccines currently in use have been shown to be very effective in preventing serious illness, hospitalisation and death if you catch Covid-19. However, although they significantly reduce the chance of catching or passing on Covid-19, they do not eliminate it. That means

you could get Covid-19 and pass it on to someone who cannot be vaccinated, putting that person at serious risk.

Until the majority of people have been vaccinated, we must continue to follow the existing precautions – wearing masks around other people, keeping a social distance, washing our hands regularly and ensuring that indoor spaces are well-ventilated.

4. Are vaccines safe?

☞ All the vaccines currently authorised for use around the world – including the two being used at the moment in South Africa – are safe. Over three billion people have been vaccinated – and the reports of serious adverse effects from the vaccine are vanishingly small. And it is important to remember that the risk to your health is far, far greater from contracting Covid-19.

5. How could they have been developed so quickly?

☞ The vaccines were developed so quickly because Covid-19 has affected every part of the world, there was no country or community that was not touched by it. This meant that global medical vaccine research knowledge and vast amounts of funding were poured into finding effective vaccines. Vaccines as a concept are not new, and the basis for the Covid-19 vaccines already existed. There have been other serious viruses of this type in recent times (i.e. SARS and MERS), and so work on vaccines had already been done. This was accelerated when Covid-19 became a global pandemic.

6. What are the vaccine side-effects?

☞ Some, but not all, people who get the vaccine will experience mild side-effects. These can include mild fever, headache and muscle soreness, and generally go away within a few days. For a few people, these may feel like a bad cold or flu, and may mean you need to take a day to recover. Immediately after you receive your vaccination, you will have a 15-minute observation period before you can leave, so that the medical team can make sure you are not having any serious reactions. If you start to show symptoms of Covid-19, it is likely that you contracted it just before or just after you

vaccinated – so it's important to test for Covid-19 if you are concerned.

7. Does it matter which vaccine I get?

☞ Absolutely not. Both vaccines currently in use in South Africa – the one-dose J&J and the two-dose Pfizer – show very high effectiveness when it comes to avoiding serious illness, hospitalisation and death. Remember – the best vaccine is the one in your arm!

8. Will the vaccines affect pregnancy and fertility?

☞ No. The vaccines available in South Africa are considered safe for women who are pregnant, breastfeeding or trying to become pregnant. However, catching Covid-19 is a serious risk to the health of both the pregnant woman and the unborn child. There is also absolutely no evidence that COVID-19 vaccines cause erectile dysfunction and male infertility – but we know that Covid-19 can!

9. Why has the mining industry set a target?

☞ The industry is focussed on protecting both lives and livelihoods from Covid-19. We know that vaccinating as many people as possible is the only way we have to dramatically reduce the risk of serious illness, hospitalisation and death from Covid-19. We also know it is the only way to ensure that the mining industry is able to work at full capacity – and so protect jobs and livelihoods – is to ensure that all employees and contractors who can be vaccinated do so as soon as possible.

10. Will I be able to travel at Christmas?

☞ Final decisions on travel are up to the government here in South Africa and in the countries to which people want to travel. However, we know that the most important thing across the world for deciding on travel is whether or not people have been vaccinated. Making sure that you are fully vaccinated against Covid-19 before the Christmas holidays means you are far more likely to be able to travel.



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