

COVID-19 Vaccination Factsheet

On 1 February 2021 South Africa received its first consignment of one million doses of the Covishield vaccine produced by the Serum Institute in India. According to President Cyril Ramaphosa: "The arrival of these vaccines contains the promise that we can turn the tide on this disease that has caused so much devastation and hardship in our country and across the world."

Since March 2020 South Africa has gone through five levels of lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- 26 March to 30 April 2020, Alert level 5.
- Alert level 4 from 1 to 31 May 2020.
- Alert level 3 from 1 June to 17 August 2020.
- Alert level 2 from 18 August 2020.
- Alert level 1 from 21 September to 28 December 2020.
- The country is on adjusted alert level 3 since 29 December 2020 to date.


[@PresidencyZA](https://twitter.com/PresidencyZA) | www.stateofthenation.gov.za

Summary of alert levels

STAY HOME
SAVE SOUTH AFRICA

ALERT LEVEL 5	ALERT LEVEL 4	ALERT LEVEL 3	ALERT LEVEL 2	ALERT LEVEL 1
 OBJECTIVE				
Drastic measures to contain the spread of the virus and save lives.	Extreme precautions to limit community transmission and outbreaks, while allowing some activity to resume.	Restrictions on many activities, including at workplaces and socially, to address a high risk of transmission.	Physical distancing and restrictions on leisure and social activities to prevent a resurgence of the virus.	Most normal activity can resume, with precautions and health guidelines followed at all times. Population prepared for an increase in alert levels if necessary.

WHATSAPP SUPPORT
 0600 123 456
 EMERGENCY NUMBER
 0800 029 999
sacoronavirus.co.za



Who is at risk of being infected?

- Front line healthcare workers are most at risk of contracting corona virus.
- Women and girls as they are often the primary care giver of those who are sick.
- High-risk individuals include those living with HIV/Aids, tuberculosis (TB), diabetes, cardiovascular disease and respiratory diseases like asthma. Also under increased risk are patients with cancer (in particular those who have been for chemotherapy or radiation treatment), the elderly and smokers.¹

Why should you vaccinated?

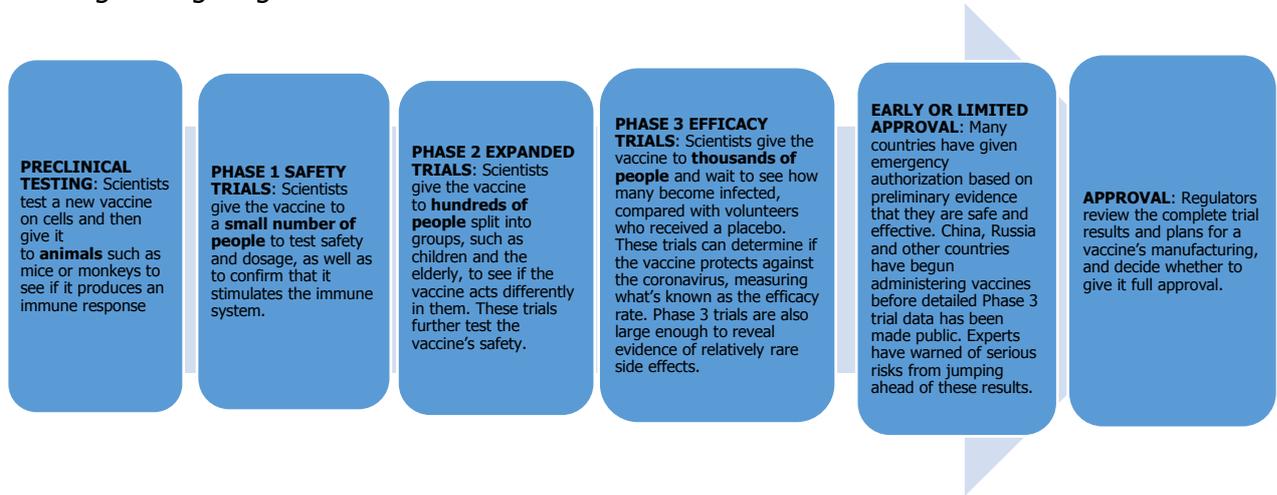
The aim of vaccination is to:

- To prevent morbidity and mortality.
- To achieve herd immunity and prevent ongoing transmission.
- When a person gets vaccinated against a disease, their risk of infection is also reduced – personal protection

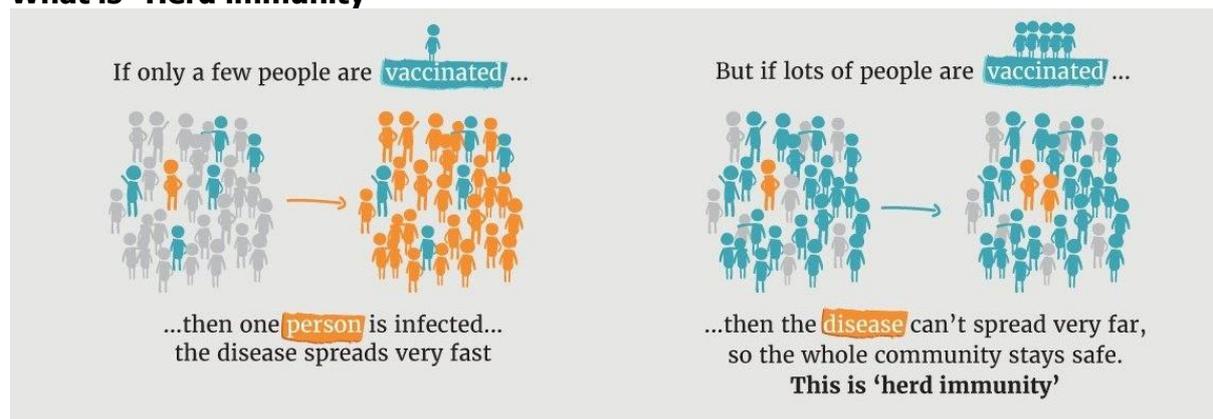
¹ [Coronavirus: SA at higher risk because of people's weakened immune system \(iol.co.za\)](http://iol.co.za)

How is a vaccine made safe

Every vaccine goes through lab and clinical tests. In creating the coronavirus vaccine the following testing stages were followed:



What is "Herd immunity"

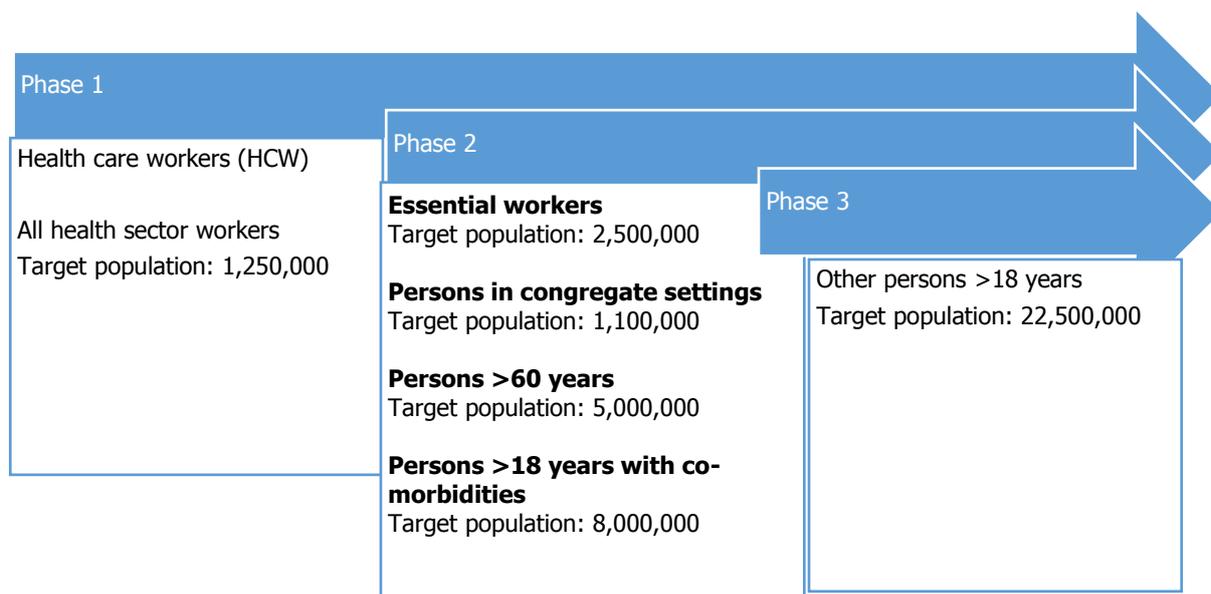


'[Herd immunity](#)', also known as 'population immunity', is the indirect protection from an infectious disease that happens when immunity develops in a population either through vaccination or through previous infection.

Herd immunity does not mean unvaccinated or individuals who have not previously been infected are themselves immune. Instead, herd immunity exists when individuals who are not immune, but live in a community with a high proportion of immunity, have a reduced risk of disease as compared to non-immune individuals living in a community with a small fraction of immunity.

Lowering the possibility for a pathogen to circulate in the community protects those who cannot be vaccinated (due to health conditions, like allergies, or their age) from the disease targeted by the vaccine.

How will the vaccine be rolled-out?



- Health workers will be divided into risk categories with those in the priority categories receiving vaccination first.
- These risk categories are linked to the PPE Risk Categories, and reflect risk of risk of contracting Covid-19

Phase	Priority Group	Definition
	Category 1	Those conducting aerosol-generating procedures i.e. intubation, ventilation,
	Category 2	Taking Covid-19 specimens
	Category 3	Those in contact with patients (who are not known or suspected to have Covid-19)
	Category 4	Those not in contact with patients
II	Essential workers	Teachers, police officers, military, miners and workers in the security, retail food, funeral, banking and essential municipal and home affairs, border control and port health services.
	Persons in congregate settings	Persons in prison, detention centres, shelters and care homes. In addition, people working in the hospitality and tourism industry, and educational institutions are also at risk.
	Persons 60 years and older	-
	Persons older than 18 years with co-morbidities	Persons living with HIV, tuberculosis, diabetics, chronic lung disease, cardiovascular disease, renal disease, obesity, etc.

Should pregnant women and children be vaccinated?

- Safety and efficacy of vaccines in children and pregnant women are currently not known.
- Vaccination is currently not recommended.
- Guidance will be updated as new evidence becomes available.

Should people who are known to have had Covid-19 infection be vaccinated?

- This includes persons who tested positive during their illness, as well as patients with positive antibody tests
- Best practice currently remains unclear
- Awaiting guidance from WHO

Am I forced to take the vaccine?

- The vaccine will not be administered in secret.
- Nobody will be given this vaccine against their will.
- Nobody is forced to take the vaccine.
- Nobody is forbidden from travelling if they have not been vaccinated.
- Nobody is stopped from enrolling at school if they have not been vaccinated.
- Nobody is banned from taking part in any public activity if they have not been vaccinated.

How to register for a vaccination

You can now register for a Covid vaccine – and pick your preferred pharmacy, clinic or GP
<https://www.businessinsider.co.za/trending/you-can-now-register-for-your-covid-vaccine-with-slots-available-at-pharmacies-clinics-gps-2021-2>

Additional resources

[President Cyril Ramaphosa: Developments in response to Coronavirus COVID-19 | South African Government \(www.gov.za\)](#)

[FULL SPEECH | President Ramaphosa on South Africa's answer to Covid-19 \(dispatchlive.co.za\)](#)

[COVID-19 Coronavirus vaccine | South African Government \(www.gov.za\)](#)
[Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\) \(who.int\)](#)

[South Africa \(who.int\)](#)

[VYF COVID-19 Graphics and Educational Handouts | Vaccinate Your Family](#)
<https://www.gov.za/covid-19/about/about-alert-system#>

[What does coronavirus mean for women | UNDP](#)

[Violence against women and girls: the shadow pandemic, statement by Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director of UN Women](#)

[COVID-19 briefs on ending violence against women](#)

[Infographic: Violence against women and girls data](#)

[The COVID-19 shadow pandemic: Domestic violence in the world of work – a call to action for the private sector](#)