



## MEDIA RELEASE

### **SOLIDARITY FUND CALLS ON YOUNG PEOPLE TO HELP THOSE 60 YEARS AND OLDER TO REGISTER FOR COVID-19 VACCINES. | 20 MAY 2021**

#### **Highlights:**

- People 60 years and older, are encouraged to register and get vaccinated
- Young people with an understanding of technology and online platforms are being called to help register the elderly
- The National Department of Health aims to vaccinate approximately 16.6 million people in phase 2 of the vaccine roll out

**Johannesburg, 20 May 2021** – The Solidarity Fund joins government and the medical fraternity for the second phase of the vaccination drive which kicked off on the 17th May 2021, to encourage those who are 60 years and older, to register to be vaccinated.

The selected demographic accounts for almost 60% of all reported COVID-19 related deaths in South Africa, according to the National Institute for Communicable Diseases.

The second phase of South Africa's vaccination programme comes amidst concerns that the third wave of the pandemic is imminent in the country. In light of this, it is important that as many eligible people as possible are vaccinated against the virus since vaccines have been shown to protect people from serious illness and death.

Speaking on behalf of the Solidarity Fund, Co-Lead of the Health Pillar, Dr Gugu Ngubane, said, "This will be the largest immunisation programme undertaken in South Africa to date, and as reported by the Minister of Health, Dr Zweli Mkhize, it is estimated that 40,000 deaths will be prevented by vaccinating 5.5 million people older than 60.

This makes the call for people 60s and older even more important. We implore the younger people in families and in communities, to assist the over 60s to register on the Electronic Vaccination Data System, <https://vaccination.health.gov.za/#/>

"Vaccines continue to be effective against viruses and the novel coronavirus is no different. Although the risk of infection from the virus remains even with the vaccine, people can expect to be protected from serious illness and death. Fewer serious cases and fatalities can protect the country's healthcare infrastructure and lighten the load for health workers."

## How to register to be vaccinated?

“We therefore call on all eligible South Africans to please play their part and register to be vaccinated in this second phase.”

This can be done in the following ways:

- Online at <https://vaccine.enroll.health.gov.za/#/>
- Using the WhatsApp line 0600 123456.
- Via SMS by dialling \*134\*832\*ID Number# or \*134\*832#
- Call the COVID-19 hotline 0800 029 999.
- Citizens can also use the new QR by simply scanning and following the prompts.”

“We also call on younger people to please assist those who are unable to, to register to be vaccinated.”

## What can you expect once you have registered?

- An SMS confirming your registration.
- A second SMS 2-3 weeks later with an appointment date and the place.
- Receive your first dose on the date provided.
- Receive an appointment date for your second dose.
- Should you miss your appointment, you will be rescheduled. However, if you miss your appointment for the third time, you will be expected to schedule your appointment.

## What is required from you on the date of your vaccination?

- Your ID and the second SMS received confirming your appointment.
- Arrive on the date specified in the second SMS.
- Please do not walk-in to a vaccination centre without confirmation of your appointment.

“As vaccines are rolled out, South Africans are encouraged to continue to practice the COVID-19 safety guidelines which include: the proper wearing of masks, covering the nose and mouth even when in the company of friends and family, avoiding large gatherings, ensuring good ventilation, especially when using public transport and maintaining social distance. We must be vigilant as rates of infection increase and as the third wave of the pandemic remains a very real possibility,” concluded Dr Ngubane.

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