

Remarks by Dr M J Phaahla , Minister of Health during COVID-19  
Vaccination roll-out programme Media Briefing, on 15 October 2021.

Thanks Mr Foster Mohale, our facilitator

Good morning to Deputy Minister Dr Dhlomo,

Acting DG Dr Crisp and other officials

Members of the media, Viewers and Listeners at home

Good morning to all South Africans

We are pleased to come back to you again this morning to keep you abreast with progress with the fight against the pandemic. Today we are conducting this media briefing from the diamond city of Kimberley in the Northern Cape, where later on today I will join the Premier of the province Dr Zamani Saul and Minister of Sport, Arts and Culture Minister Mthethwa on the program which I will say a little more about later on. Due to these activities we have shortened our briefing today.

We are pleased to report that the number of new infections have continued on a downward trend over the last seven days at 28% reduction and a 3,5% reduction in hospitalization but we still have just over 5000 people in hospital with COVID-19.

The positivity rate has been a seven day average of 2,7% which is the reliable than looking at the daily fluctuations. Reported deaths are also down by 16%, which is good although we would prefer zero

death. It will take a little longer to see even much lower numbers of people still in hospital as there are fewer admissions going forward.

The vaccination programme remains stable having kept the momentum of the previous week after the Vooma Weekend. The total doses administered per day have remained around 2000 with some days just below that as was the case on Wednesday but above that yesterday at 215 438.

Total doses administered by yesterday just shy of 20 million at 19,899 million so by end of today we will cross the 20 million mark. Individuals with at least one jab have reached 13,803 million which is 34,6% of all adults so we getting closer to 35% which will be half of the 70% we are targeting.

The performance provinces differ quite a bit with the Western Cape having crossed the 40% mark at 43%, and the Eastern Cape, Limpopo and Free State close by at 39+ %, all three should cross 40% by Monday next week. Gauteng is pulling fairly well with over 3,5 million jabbed but due to large population population, that constitutes only 31,7% of the adult population On the bottom half we are concerned by the pace of Mpumalanga and KZN especially the latter with a big population. We will continue to give them support.

We are also pleased with the enthusiasm with which South Africans have embraced the Vaccination certificate. As 15h30 yesterday the 14th October more than 1,5 million certificates had been downloaded. We have also resent more than 10 million SMS-es with vaccination codes in case they were not saved after vaccination.



, Culture, Music, Exhibitions and Conferencing to follow suite, vaccinate and open up is the message.

Today I am happy to announce that we have reached a stage where we ready to open up vaccination for children between 12- 17 years of age, and majority of this cohort are in the secondary or high school level.

This follows a recommendation by the Vaccine Ministerial Advolpoy4Mh

The advise is that these categories of patients be offered additional dose over the prescribed normal, but this must be strictly under the referral by their medical doctor under their supervision .

The other

