



MEDIA STATEMENT

To: Editors & Health Journalists
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NEXT VOOMA VACCINATION WEEKEND 12-14 NOVEMBER

Pretoria: As part of efforts to ramp-up vaccinations for the country ahead of the festive season, President Cyril Ramaphosa has written to a wide range of leaders in government, labour, faith-based organisations, the National House of Traditional and Khoi-San Leaders, business and civil society partners inviting them to support the upcoming Vooma Vaccination Weekend.

They have been requested to participate in local events, community outreaches and to lend their support in promoting awareness of vaccination sites in every district. This is aimed at galvanizing massive country-wide support for the vaccination programme against Covid-19. It comes at a time when the rate of new Covid-19 infection are low in South Africa, but where the 4th wave is anticipated early in the new year.

While the country is unlikely to avert the 4th wave, a higher vaccination rate over the next month could substantially reduce its impact, especially if coverage among people aged 50 and older could be accelerated. To date, over 80% of confirmed Covid-19 deaths have been in this age group.

“Three out of five people aged 50 and older have now had at least one dose of the Covid-19 vaccine” says the Health Minister Dr Joe Phaahla. “If we can get close to five out of five people in this age group vaccinated by the end of the year, we will crush the power of the 4th wave by substantially reducing the number of hospital admissions and deaths.”

The first Vooma Vaccination Weekend led to an unprecedented level of engagement and active mobilisation across many districts in South Africa. It achieved 75% of its target of 500,000 vaccinations over the three-day period, and we hope to achieve 100% of that target in the next Vooma Weekend.

This target will only be achieved if there can be even greater mobilisation across all sectors of society, hence the president has called upon all leaders across various sectors of society to join hands with government.

Vaccination sites will be open across the country during Vooma weekend, and the goal is to ensure at least 95% capacity on the Saturday. While fewer sites will open on Sunday,