How do I register for the COVID-19 vaccine?

Registration is no longer mandatory and you can walk into any vaccination site. Here are options to register beforehand:

USSD

You can use any cell phone.

USSD registration is free on all networks.

Dial *134*832# or if you are an SA citizen you can skip some questions by dialling *134*832* followed by your ID number (with no spaces) and then #.

(For example *134*832*6101012222082#)

By Phone

It's free!
Call 0800 029 999

WhatsApp

You need a cell phone with WhatsApp installed.

Use this link http://wa.me/27600123456?text=register or send a message with the word REGISTER to 0600 123 456 on WhatsApp.

You will receive a message explaining how registration works. Answer the questions by replying with the number next to the appropriate option for you or you can type an answer when asked to do so. Follow the instructions carefully.

When you are finished, you will get a confirmation message that tells you that you are registered.

Once registered, even if you do not receive this SMS, you can go to any vaccination site and vaccinate.

Online

You will need a smartphone, a tablet or a computer with internet access.

Go to https://vaccine.enroll.health.gov.za Follow the instructions. Put in all the details the system asks for.

When you are finished the system will send an SMS to the phone number you provided. This SMS will tell you that you are registered. Once registered, even if you do not receive this SMS, you can go to any vaccination site and get vaccinated.

Can I get the vaccine if I am undocumented?

The Department of Health has said they are working on a system to enable undocumented people in South Africa to be able to get vaccinated. However, there has been no updated announcement on this system.

According to www.sacoronavirus.co.za - an online resource and news portal - there are currently sites in KwaZulu-Natal and the Western Cape, a pilot site in Gauteng, and a few in Free State who are vaccinating people who are undocumented.

The University of Pretoria's Community Oriented Primary Care (COPC) Research Unit in collaboration with international and community organisations, and religious leaders have been piloting a project to vaccinate undocumented people. There is currently a pilot site at the Hillbrow Clinic in Johannesburg.

Where can you get the COVID-19 vaccine in South Africa?

Vaccination sites are opened on a regular basis across the country. For an updated list of vaccination sites, you can visit the Find My Jab website.

Go to the website, and type in your address or zip code. The map will show you the nearest vaccine site, information about when it is open, and directions to the vaccine site.

There are vaccination sites that are both public and private.

While COVID-19 has impacted many people's health it has severely impacted people's livelihoods and social and emotional well-being. There are a number of interventions and services which were developed in response to COVID-19. These include:

sassa
Social Relief of Distress Grant

Scalabrini Centre of Cape Town
Scalabrini COVID-19 Information for refugees and migrants in South Africa

Civil-Society Coordinating Collective
Guide to services for refugees and migrants in South Africa- Developed by the Civil-Society Coordinating Collective

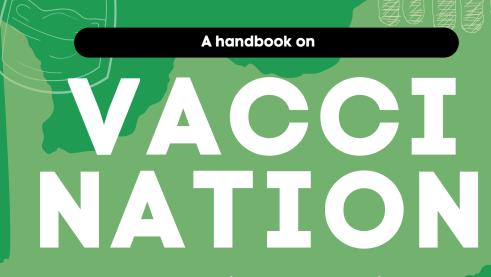| Organisation	Contact Details
Lawyers for Human Rights	Contact number: • Johannesburg: 011 339 1960 • Pretoria: 012 320 2943 • Durban: 031 301 0531 • Musina: 015 534 2203 Website: www.lhr.org.za Email: info@lhr.org.za
Consortium for Refugees and Migrants in South Africa	Contact number: 011 403 7560/0032/0033 Website: www.cormsa.org.za Email: info@cormsa.org.za
NMU Refugee Rights Centre	Contact number: 041 504 1310 Website: www.mandela.ac.za Email:
Help@Hand — Refugee and migrant digital information text line	063 966 9083
Immigration Detention Hotline	Call: 0800079 614 Whatsapp: +27817168791

The following resources were used in the development of this platform and can be used for more information

People's Health Movement Vaccine Literacy

SECTION27 Vaccine Manual

SA Coronavirus Online Resources and News Platform

A handbook on

VACCI NATION

COVID-19 vaccine access and equity.

For people who are migrants, refugees, asylum seekers and undocumented.

Who is this handbook for

This handbook is for **all** people who live in South Africa. The handbook provides information on COVID-19, vaccines: how they work and have been developed, how to access vaccines questions you might have. While COVID-19 has affected all people in different ways, it's affects and access to vaccines have been compounded for vulnerable and marginalised people in our communities. In this handbook, particular focus has been given to people who are asylum seekers, refugees, migrants and undocumented.

Our response to prevent the further spread and consequences of COVID-19 relies on our collective effort to ensure the inclusion and protection of all people. A response that does not include refugees, asylum seekers and migrants and those who are undocumented is detrimental to the response itself.

What is COVID-19?

COVID-19 is an infectious disease that spreads easily between people. The main symptoms of COVID-19 are fever, dry cough, and tiredness. Other symptoms that are less common and may affect some patients include aches and pains, nasal congestion, headache, sore throat, diarrhoea, and loss of taste or smell. These symptoms are usually mild and begin gradually.

The status of COVID-19 in South Africa*:

*as of October 2022

21 193 413 Tests conducted

4 019 365 Total positive cases

3 912 506 Recoveries

102 194 Deaths

37 659 460 Vaccinations administered

How to protect yourself from getting COVID-19:

- Get vaccinated
- Wash and sanitize your hands regularly
- Wear a mask when in crowded or closed spaces
- Host events or gatherings outdoors
- Keep indoor spaces well ventilated by opening windows and doors
- Stay at home if you are feeling sick

What can we do to prevent COVID-19?

Individually

Keep social distancing, wear masks in crowded places, and regularly wash your hands even after you get vaccinated.

Encourage your friends and family to get vaccinated.

Community

Support people and families who are affected by COVID-19.

Share information which is helpful and true.

Provide nutritional and emotional support for people infected and affected by COVID-19.

Nationally

Capacitate and improve health systems.

Expand community health care worker personnel.

Ensure vaccine accessibility, equity, and justice.

What is a vaccine?

A vaccine is a type of medicine used to prevent the spread of diseases caused by bacteria and viruses. Vaccines have been used in the past to successfully prevent smallpox and polio. Vaccination is an easy and safe way to prevent people from getting and spreading diseases. Vaccines use your body's natural defence mechanisms, known as the immune system, to recognize infections and fight them, which will prevent you from getting severely sick.

What is the COVID-19 vaccine?

There are a number of vaccines that have been developed in response to COVID-19. The vaccines use different methods but are similar, in that they are in your body and build immunity against COVID-19. A summary of the vaccines available in South Africa can be seen in the table on the next page.

How does the COVID-19 vaccine work?

When your body is exposed to a virus it does not always recognise it and know how to fight it.

A vaccine can be understood as a tiny copy of the virus, which is safely put in your body.

The vaccine trains your body how to fight the virus once it enters the body.

Once your body recognizes the virus it builds up defence cells, known as antibodies, which will prevent you from getting sick from the virus.

If you come into contact with the COVID-19 virus, these antibodies will recognize the virus and fight back to prevent it from spreading to your cells and making you sick.

Why do we need to take the vaccine?

Vaccines are an effective way to protect people in our homes, communities, and country from getting and spreading COVID-19 and other diseases. The COVID-19 vaccine is also the most effective way to prevent further lockdowns and increased pressure on health systems. The more people who have been vaccinated the higher the total levels of immunity are to ensure the economy and everyone's livelihoods can recover.

Why do we need booster vaccinations?

Since vaccines were first given, research has shown that our bodies' immunity to COVID-19 decreases over time. A booster shot will ensure that your body's immunity is strong enough to fight off a COVID-19 infection.

How do we know if the COVID-19 vaccine is safe?

Scientists have been working on vaccines for a long time and investigating other viruses which are similar to COVID-19 like SARS and MERS viruses and have been developing vaccines for these viruses for a long time.

Vaccine development happens at various stages, this is called a clinical trial. The results from this trial are then verified by other scientists which is called 'peer-reviewing'. Looking at the data, scientists can say that the vaccine is safe and effective for use. Before the vaccine is sold or administered a regulatory body will have to approve its use. In South Africa, this regulatory body is the South African Health Products Regulatory Authority (SAHPRA).

Why were COVID-19 vaccines developed so quickly?

The development of other vaccines has taken longer as scientists have had to do a lot of paperwork, find participants for medical trials and fundraise lots of money. The development of the COVID-19 vaccines was different because there was a lot of financial and resource support from governments and international organisations, administrative processes were sped up and many people willingly volunteered to be a part of the vaccine trials. The collaboration of these factors allowed for the development and approval of vaccines to happen quickly.

Who can get the COVID-19 vaccine?

Everyone is entitled to get the vaccine for free in South Africa. According to the Constitution, access to vaccines is a human right and is available to everyone. Initially, COVID-19 vaccines were prioritised for people who were at a heightened risk of contracting COVID-19; this included the elderly, and frontline workers - people working in medical facilities. Now that there is less of a demand, vaccines are currently available for all people, the Pfizer vaccine is available for children from the age of 12 and older.