



VACCINATION OF CHILDREN OVER 12 YEARS TALKING POINTS

Vaccination against COVID-19 is open to all children over 12 years.

- From today, all children aged 12 years and older will be eligible to receive one dose of the Pfizer vaccine.
- The vaccine will be provided only at public and private National Vaccination Programme sites.
- Children with specific conditions that result in them being immunocompromised are strongly encouraged to be vaccinated.
- All eligible children can be registered through the Electronic Vaccination Data System link - vaccine.enroll.health.gov.za or by calling the COVID-19 Call Centre on 0800 029 999.
- A child's birth certificate, foreign passport or asylum/refugee bearing their names will be required for purposes of registering on the EVDS.

The COVID-19 vaccine has been safety tested for children.

- Clinical trials of mRNA vaccines in children 12 to 17 year-old have shown that it is safe.
- The trials evaluated the safety, tolerability and immune response of the vaccine in children.
- Vaccination of young people from the age of 12 years has been taking place across the world.
- COVID-19 vaccines go through in-depth testing that involve tens of thousands of people.
- The South African Health Products Authority also tests all vaccines used in the country to ensure they are safe.
- Vaccines are critical to reducing the rates of infection, hospitalisations and deaths from COVID-19.

Let's have an open discussion with our children on vaccination.

- Parents and children are encouraged to discuss the benefits of getting the COVID-19 jab.
- Our children are our future and they deserve to be protected against the spread of COVID-19.
- It is recommended that a parent or other adult accompany eligible children when they present for vaccination.
- Any child aged 12 years and older who understands the risks and benefits of vaccination can consent to be vaccinated
- The vaccination of children can help lower the risk of COVID-19 outbreaks in schools.
- It can also help limit the transmission of the virus to vulnerable members of our population.