

MEDI BRIEF

MAY 2021

Missed the 2021 AGM? If you missed the 2021 AGM you can still watch the recording. We have uploaded it for you on the Scheme website. Log in as a member, then go to Annual General Meeting.

Covid-19 vaccination roll-out update

As you can imagine, we have received many a query about the Covid-19 vaccine roll-out. You will understand that a project of this size, complexity, speed and number of changing variables, is quite a challenge for the whole industry, the country as a whole, and even for the world. We can assure you that from what we can observe in South Africa, all hands are on deck, all parties involved are working and pulling together and are making their most capable resources available. Ultimately, everybody has the same interest; making vaccines available for the entire population as quickly as possible. We are still at the beginning of the national vaccine roll-out programme and, like you, have many questions and not all the answers yet. As soon as facts are confirmed, you will be informed accordingly. In today's issue we will provide you with answers to the most frequently asked questions.

Where must I register to get the Covid-19 vaccine?

1. Register on the National Electronic Vaccine Data System

South Africa's Covid-19 vaccination roll-out is a government-led process. At this stage, the government is still the only purchaser and distributor of vaccines. If you intend to get vaccinated against Covid-19, you must register on the National Department of Health's Electronic Vaccination Data System (EVDS).

Who can register on the EVDS?

At the time of publication, the EVDS was opened to the following groups:

- All Healthcare Workers (public and private) who intend to be vaccinated – Phase 1
- Citizens aged 60 years and older – Phase 2

All other citizens will be advised through the public channels and news when it will be their turn to register.

Where do I register?

Register yourself, or family and friends that need your assistance through the following channels:

Web: <http://vaccine.enroll.health.gov.za/> on any device with internet access, or

USSD: Dial *134*832*IDnumber#. No ID number? Just dial *134*832# (free on all South African mobile networks), or

WhatsApp: send the word REGISTER to 060 012 3456. Internet access or data required.

Call: 0800 029 999 (8am-6pm daily – toll free on all South African Mobile Networks)

Healthcare facilities: Individuals who don't have internet access can approach healthcare facilities to assist them with the registration on the EVDS. Please don't use this option if you have other means as our healthcare facilities are under immense pressure.

What is the purpose of EVDS?

According to the government's website, information submitted during registration will be used to:

- Identify eligible beneficiaries for vaccination
- Plan the supply of vaccines and ancillary items
- Allocate beneficiaries to their nearest available service point
- Communicate with registered individuals about the vaccination programme, including but not limited to: eligibility, where they will be vaccinated and follow-up vaccination appointments.

Registration on the EVDS is very simple and should only take you 2 or 3 minutes.

You will be asked to provide your ID number, contact details, appointment preferences, the name of your medical scheme and membership number. Please ensure you provide your membership number. More information on the EVDS available at <https://sacoronavirus.co.za/evds/>

2. Discovery Covid-19 Vaccination Navigator

As we informed you last month, the Board of Trustees felt that it will be in our members' best interest to offer you additional Covid-19 vaccine information and services directly from Discovery.

Who can register on the Discovery Covid-19 Vaccination Navigator?

All beneficiaries of Discovery-administered schemes or individuals that are clients of other Discovery products or services.

At the time of publication, the Discovery Covid-19 Vaccination Navigator was opened to the following groups:

- Individuals above 60 years of age

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- Individuals under 60 years of age with co-morbidities (certain chronic conditions). Please note, you can already register on the Discovery vaccination tool, but not yet on the EVDS. You will still need to register on EVDS when it is your turn.

All other groups: Discovery will inform you when you will be able to register.

Where do I register?

Visit the AMS website (www.angloms.co.za), click on the Covid-19 hub and access the Discovery Covid-19 Vaccination Navigator. We recommend you use the AMS member log-in (first button) for full functionality. If you have not yet registered as a member, please do that first (the 'register' link is on the top right of the AMS Scheme website) and then use the same log-in details for the Discovery Covid-19 Vaccination Navigator.

You will need to use the same contact details we have for you on our membership database, i.e. the email address we are sending your statements to and the cell phone number we are sending your SMS alerts to.

If you need assistance, please call us on 0860 222 633.

What is the purpose of the Discovery Vaccination Navigator?

Discovery aims to provide you with additional information and services, such as:

- Informing you where you are in the queue to get vaccinated
- Letting you know what to expect and how to prepare for your Covid-19 vaccination
- Inviting you to book at Discovery Vaccination sites
- Offering an internationally recognised vaccination certificate
- and more.

Receive Covid-19 vaccine information via email and SMS

Due to the fast-changing nature of this topic, our administrator can only include you in the "Discovery Covid-19 Vaccination Navigator" communication if you have provided us with your email address and/or cell phone number. Please ensure we have the right contact details for you on our system so that you can benefit from the available information. To check which contact details we have for you, either login as a member and check your personal details or call us on 0860 222 633.

Information will also be available on our Covid-19 hub available at www.angloms.co.za

Find information about: Registration for the Discovery Covid-19 Vaccine Navigator | Information about your medical scheme benefits for Covid-19 | Covid-19 risk assessment and online doctor consultations.

Covid-19 vaccine facts

The media provides plenty of information about the available vaccines in South Africa. Please ensure that you follow reputable sources such as the National Department of Health (www.health.gov.za), the South African Coronavirus News and Information website (www.sacoronavirus.co.za), the World Health Organization (www.who.int), or similar. Here are a few of the most important facts:

- The vaccines don't give you the virus. Rather, they teach your immune system to recognise the virus and to fight the infection.
- You are not protected from the moment you have received the vaccine. It will take 2-3 weeks for your immune system to be fully prepared.
- The vaccines can't completely prevent you from getting Covid-19. Rather, they reduce the risk of severe disease, hospitalisation and death.
- It doesn't matter which vaccine you are getting. All vaccines available in South Africa were proven to be safe and effective in rigorous clinical trials.
- Depending on which vaccine you are getting, you might need one or two doses which are administered a few weeks or months apart.
- The risk of blood clots after getting the J&J vaccine is less than one in a million. The chances of developing blood clots in ICU due to Covid-19, is 30 out of every 100.

- As with any other medication or vaccine, you might or might not get side effects after receiving the vaccine. Both are considered normal and are no indication on the effectiveness of the vaccine for your body. Most common side effects could be headaches, body aches and fever for 24-48 hours.
- The risk of the disease far outweighs the risk associated with being vaccinated.
- We don't know yet how long protection from a vaccine lasts and how effective the vaccines are to possible future variations of the virus. It is likely that we will get regular Covid-19 vaccinations in the future (similar to flu vaccines).
- You should still get vaccinated even if you have had Covid-19. Presently, we don't know how long immunity lasts or how strong your immunity would be against re-infection to the current or new variants.
- If you had other vaccines recently, such as the flu vaccine, consult with your healthcare provider as there should be 2 to 3 weeks between the administration of the flu and Covid-19 vaccines.

Sources: PubMed, sacoronavirus.co.za

Visit www.angloms.co.za to learn more about your Scheme and benefits.

Find all previous MediBrief editions in the Info Centre > Knowledge Library.

Member Queries:

Value Care Plan: 0861 665 665, anglo@primecure.co.za

Standard and Managed Care Plan: 0860 222 633, member@angloms.co.za

Claims: claims@angloms.co.za