



health

Department:
Health
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



INTERNAL MEMO

Date:	11 March 2021		
To:	Minister ZL Mkhize, Honorable Minister of Health	From:	Ministerial Advisory Committee (MAC) on COVID-19

INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL DURING COVID-19 VACCINATION

Problem Statement

- As South Africa starts to vaccinate its population, it will be important to ensure the required Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) measures are understood and applied appropriately.

Evidence review/Background

- Variants of concern (VOC) of SARS-CoV-2, are widespread in South Africa with ongoing community transmission. Infection and mortality rates are rapidly decreasing.
- South Africa has a good record of mass immunisation and has existing systems in place to roll out vaccination.
- The first phase of vaccination will involve vaccination of healthcare workers.
- Initially, Johnson & Johnson vaccine (single dose) will be administered, mainly in healthcare facilities, but later rolled out to the community and rural settings.

Recommendations

During vaccination- IPC measures

What are the recommended IPC measures for COVID-19 vaccine introduction?

- Standard precautions apply.
- The use of a **surgical Mask is compulsory for vaccinator** (additional face shields are an alternative). The same mask may be worn for one session or until it becomes damp.
- The vaccinee:** must wear a mask at the time of vaccination.
- Gloves are not recommended** during vaccination. If used, these must be changed after each patient contact. The gloves must not be disinfected with an alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR) as this destroys the integrity of the gloves and may increase the risk of infection.
- Hand hygiene:** ABHR used before and after each patient contact, and BEFORE and AFTER completing documentation (see infographic from the National Department of Health).

- Wipe the injection skin site with clean water and cotton wool (alcohol swab not recommended unless there is no clean water and cotton wool available. Allow to dry completely)
- **Clean rubber bung of the multi dose vial with an alcohol swab and allow to dry before inserting spike or hypodermic needle.**
- When withdrawing vaccine from a multi-dose vial (MDV):
 - NEVER leave a needle in a Multi dose vial (MDV).
 - Use a spike (Clave©) to insert the syringe and withdraw an aliquot of vaccine.
 - Attach a sterile needle to the syringe and inject the person.
 - Drop the needle and syringe as one unit in the sharps container provided.
 - Use a new needle and syringe for each patient.
- If there is no spike available, use a sterile needle and syringe to withdraw an aliquot of vaccine and deliver it into the vaccinee's arm. Discard in sharps container.
- Waste management: The sharps container should be filled no more than ¾ full before closing for disposal.

How to provide clear information on IPC to health workers?

- Training package and slides have been put together which are being rolled out to all provinces, districts and Healthcare Facilities (HCF).
- Training should be done by trained IPC staff or similar who have knowledge of the subject and are based at provincial, district or HCF level.
- The information in the training packages should be based on the National IPC COVID-19 Guidelines (evidence-based).¹
- See annexure: Advisory on IPC recommendations during and after vaccination, including the checklist for site readiness, and vaccination site daily checklist.

How to ensure IPC standards across all settings where vaccination may be undertaken?

- Site training should include IPC measures during of the vaccination campaign.
- Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) persons either from Quality Improvement (QI), IPC or Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) should be available to support the campaign.
- An IPC practitioner, where available, should be drawn in to participate in the team to ensure that the vaccinators are informed/educated about the correct IPC practices.

Post vaccination

- Continue with non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPIs).
- Vaccine-related side effects to be reported on the Adverse Events following immunisation (AEFI) form (see annexure) to HCF where vaccination took place.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kind regards,



PROF SALIM S. ABDOOL KARIM
CO-CHAIRPERSONS: MINISTERIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON COVID-19
DATE: 11 March 2021



PROF MARIAN JACOBS

¹ National Department of Health. COVID-19 Disease: Infection Prevention and Control Guidelines. 21 May 2020.
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CC:

- » **Dr S Buthelezi (Director-General)**
- » **Dr T Pillay (Deputy Director-General)**
- » **Incident Management Team**