

9 February 2021

Dear MHR Panel member

COVID-19 VACCINATIONS UPDATE

As you are probably aware, the National Department of Health announced on Sunday night that the roll out of the AstraZeneca vaccine has been temporarily placed on hold while a committee of scientists plan the optimal way forward.

This decision was made after trial data released by the Witwatersrand and Oxford universities indicated that the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine is less effective against mild and moderate illness caused by the 501Y.V2 variant currently circulating in South Africa. It is important to note that the temporary pause of the roll-out was not based on the safety of the vaccine, but that further research is required to understand the effectiveness of the vaccine against the latest strains.

Aside from the other measures introduced early in the pandemic, e.g. hand sanitisation and social distancing, vaccination remains our best defence against COVID-19, and therefore MHR will continue with our planning and training to ensure that we are ready when we receive our allocation of vaccines.

We will continue to keep you informed of developments as they happen and would again like to thank you for your continued efforts to ensure that our patients receive the best possible care during these challenging times.

Kind regards



André Fourie
Chief Executive Officer



Alina van der Merwe
MHR Quality Manager