

12 November 2021

Dear Panel member

BOOSTER VACCINES FOR SISONKE STUDY PARTICIPANTS

The South African Medical Research Council proceeded with the second phase of the Sisonke Study (provision of Johnson & Johnson booster doses) on 10 November. Healthcare workers who participated in the initial Sisonke trial would have received their SMS for consent on 9 November. Please follow the link in the SMS to provide your consent, as this will then produce a vaccination voucher for the Sisonke Phase 2.

Our client, Mediclinic, will be assisting all healthcare workers working at their facilities with the roll-out of the Johnson & Johnson booster doses. This will apply to panel members who were part of the initial Sisonke study. Each facility will provide posters within the hospital with further details of your relevant site and the booking channel.

We fully support the inclusion of a booster vaccine as part of the Johnson & Johnson dose guidelines, as the recent ENSEMBLE 2 study of more than 31 000 participants over nine countries demonstrated that a second dose administered two months after the primary Johnson & Johnson dose substantially increases protection, especially against symptomatic and severe/critical COVID-19 infection, including when caused by SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern.

Designated Mediclinic vaccination centres will be able to assist healthcare workers from 10 November – 10 December 2021, as this is the time span for the study. However, there may be some sites that open booking at a later date as Mediclinic are reliant on receiving Johnson & Johnson stock.

Where can I be vaccinated?

Below is a list of all the designated Mediclinic vaccination centres that will be participating in this Sisonke roll-out. Please take the time to identify your closest facility.

Mediclinic vaccination sites for Sisonke vaccinations:

Mediclinic Bloemfontein	Mediclinic Legae	Mediclinic Panorama
Mediclinic Brits	Mediclinic Lephale	Mediclinic Pietermaritzburg
Mediclinic Cape Gate	Mediclinic Limpopo	Mediclinic Potchefstroom
Mediclinic Constantiaberg	Mediclinic Medforum	Mediclinic Sandton
Mediclinic Gariep	Mediclinic Midstream	Mediclinic Thabazimbi
Mediclinic Geneva	Mediclinic Milnerton	Mediclinic Tzaneen
Mediclinic Hermanus	Mediclinic Morningside	Mediclinic Vereeniging
Mediclinic Highveld	Mediclinic Nelspruit	Mediclinic Vergelegen
Mediclinic Hoogland		

Do I need to book an appointment?

Once you have received your vaccination voucher via SMS (BD- XXXX) from the Department of Health, please visit the Mediclinic booking portal on <https://vaccinationbookings.mediclinic.co.za/> to make your **Sisonke booking** at your closest vaccination centre. Each facility will provide posters within the hospital to advise staff of the relevant vaccination site and the booking channels.

Please consult the Sisonke Q&A at the end of the document for some practical guidance on how the Sisonke vaccination voucher will be issued.

What do I do after I have received the booster?

Please download an updated digital vaccination certificate at <https://vaccine.certificate.health.gov.za/> and send it to:

- **MHR Central** (*Free State, KwaZulu-Natal and Northern Cape*): ellen.duarte@mhr.co.za
- **MHR Northern** (*Johannesburg, Vaal Triangle and Mpumalanga*): martie.debeer@mhr.co.za
- **MHR Tshwane** (*Brits, Pretoria and Limpopo*): christina.pretorius@mhr.co.za
- **MHR Western Cape** (*Southern and Western Cape Locations*): wiedaad.paleker@mhr.co.za

Remember, vaccines save lives and bring us one step closer to ending the pandemic.

Yours sincerely,



Alina van der Merwe
MHR Operations Manager

ADDENDUM: SISONKE STUDY QUESTION AND ANSWERS

Who is eligible for the Sisonke 2 trial?

- Any health worker who participated in Sisonke will be offered a booster shot of Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) vaccination from 10 November.

You CAN get the booster shot if:

- You received your first dose of J&J through the Sisonke study
- You can receive the booster shot even if you are pregnant or breastfeeding

You CANNOT get a booster shot if:

- Your first dose of J&J was received outside the Sisonke study
- You have already accessed a booster vaccination through other means

How will the process for Sisonke boosters work?

1. You will receive an SMS invitation to participate in Sisonke 2
2. This will take you to a link for informed consent. Please take time to read this. Please complete it if you wish to take part. (Please DO NOT re-register on EVDS).
3. After completing the consent you will receive a new vaccination voucher number starting with the letters **BD-** (Booster Dose)
4. Follow Mediclinic communication for details of your closest vaccination site. Sites will be available in all sub-districts.
5. If your cell phone number has changed since the original Sisonke study, please phone the National Coronavirus Call Centre and ask an operator to update your cell phone number on your vaccination record. (0800 029 999)

What do I do now?

- Watch your cell phone for the SMS invite
- Update your number if needed
- Keep an eye out for the details of sites