

Dear Member,

COVID-19 VACCINE ROLLOUT: BESTMED MEMBERS OVER THE AGE OF 60 ARE ENCOURAGED TO REGISTER

While we have all been informed that the national COVID-19 vaccination rollout has begun, many find that information around the programme is not clear. We have put together an information update to help guide you and your dependants on the journey to your COVID-19 vaccination.

COVID-19 vaccine procurement and distribution

The National Department of Health (NDoH) is responsible for sourcing, distributing, and overseeing the rollout of the vaccine to providers, e.g. pharmacies, hospitals, general practitioners, etc. The government, as the sole purchaser of vaccines, will distribute it to provincial governments and the private sector so that healthcare providers can in turn administer it to the public. Providers may not procure vaccines directly from suppliers.

A national rollout committee will oversee the vaccine implementation in both the public and private sectors.

How to get your vaccine?

An Electronic Vaccination Data System (EVDS) is now open to the public and persons over the age of 60 are invited to register on <https://vaccine.enroll.health.gov.za/#/>. This system serves as a pre-vaccination registration and appointment system where members of the public, including those that belong to medical schemes, will be required to register for their COVID-19 vaccine. Medical schemes may not register members on their behalf.

When will you receive your COVID-19 vaccine?

Providers have to be accredited to administer the vaccines and Bestmed will fund the vaccination cost at any of the accredited providers. Even if a medical scheme offers to set up distribution and administration hubs, members will have to wait their turn according to the three phases detailed below. Members from specific schemes will therefore not be advantaged above other schemes' members or non-medical scheme individuals.

Bestmed will utilise its extensive network of more than 1000 corporate pharmacies on the Bestmed Pharmacy Network, with a national footprint, to administer the COVID-19 vaccines to our members (as is the case with the flu vaccines).

Vaccinations will be rolled out per priority group as follows:

- I. Phase I – Healthcare workers: doctors, pharmacists, and allied healthcare workers on the front line
- II. Phase II – Essential workers, individuals in congregate setting, individuals older than 60 years, and individuals older than 18 years with co-morbidities. This is expected to run from May until July 2021. Citizens over the age of 60 are encouraged to register on the EVDS system now.
- III. Phase III – All other individuals older than 18 years.

Who will pay for your COVID-19 vaccine?

The COVID-19 vaccine has been classified as a Prescribed Minimum Benefit (PMB). This means that the COVID-19 vaccine, and the administration thereof, will be regarded as PMB level of care and will be funded by your medical scheme, regardless of the member's option or available benefits.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Leo Dlamini', written over a faint circular stamp or watermark.

Leo Dlamini,
Chief Executive Officer and Principal Officer