

Inhlabamkhosi



THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH MONITORING COVID-19 COMPLIANCE IN THE PROVINCE

The Mpumalanga Department of Health led by the MEC of Health, Ms Sasekani Manzini continues to monitor Covid-19 compliance and assess the implementation of the Clinic Based Model in relation to COVID-19 resurgence. Manzini has already visited a number of shopping centres and health facilities in the three district. The aim of the visits is to monitor and encourage compliance in line with the coronavirus lockdown regulations and assess the implementation of the Clinic Based Model in relation to COVID-19 resurgence. The model was established to increase

capacity in Health facilities through community participation to ensure that essential health services continue uninterrupted and that COVID-19 patients can access life-saving treatment, without compromising public health objectives and safety of health workers. The MEC was happy to see the cooperation between taxi drivers and passengers, the shoppers and stores managers with regard to adherence to COVID-19 lock down regulations and protocols to curb the spread of infection and keep everyone safe. MEC Manzini encourages everyone to continue to practice

protective measures such as washing of hands or sanitizers, wearing of mask and keep social distancing, limit social gatherings and time spent in crowded places. "It is encouraging to note that in the areas I visited so far there are measures put in place to mitigate the spread of the virus and I will continue to visit public areas unannounced. The MEC further appreciated the work ethics displayed by all frontline Health Workers, and the support demonstrated by Private-Sector and the community members at large in the fight against COVID-19.

CORONAVIRUS
#COVID-19

Hotline: 0800 029 999

Precautions:

-  **1** Wash your hands with soap for 20 seconds
-  **2** Cough or sneeze into a tissue or your elbow
-  **3** Avoid close contact with people who are sick



PHARMACEUTICAL AND RADIOLOGY SERVICES WILL BE PROVIDED FOR 24 HOURS AT ROB FERREIRA HOSPITAL

The Mpumalanga Department of Health to expanded access to Tertiary Health Care Services at Rob Ferreira Hospital. As from monday the 1st February 2021 the Pharmaceutical and Radiology Services will be provided for 24 hours at the facility to improve access to the Specialized Health care services in the Province.

In most of the public hospitals in the country, pharmaceutical and radiology services are dependent on the 'on call' system after hours.

Patients had to return the following day to collect non-emergency medicines after being seen by doctors after hours. Pharmaceutical and radiology services were limited to emergencies only. The 24 hour services in both departments will increase access to care whilst improving the quality of life of our community. This will also improve the referral system as patients transferred after hours will access both services within acceptable waiting times. The MEC for Health in Mpumalanga, Ms

Sasekani Manzini said "The expansion of service hours to both Pharmaceutical and Radiology services is part of government's effort to contribute directly to the realization of desired health outcome and to improve access to the specialized tertiary hospital services in the Province". Manzini went further and pointed out that, this was achieved through exploring different models of working time to get what best suits and benefits both available human resource capacity and patients.

COVID-19 PREVENTION ON PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Wash your hands with soap and water for **20 seconds** or use a 60% or more alcohol-based hand rub often **throughout the day**



Wash your hands at these **5 KEY MOMENTS** FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORT:



1
Before going on public transport



2
After touching doors, handrails and money



3
After making contact with other people



4
Before touching your eyes, nose and mouth



5
When you arrive at your destination

Credit: NICD



Mpumalanga Province rolls out J&J COVID-19 vaccine

The Mpumalanga Province has received their Johnson & Johnson vaccine. The vaccine rollout kicked off at Rob Ferreira Hospital, and later at the Witbank Hospital. Premier Refilwe Mtshweni-Tsipane confirmed that 2000 doses of the vaccine have been delivered to the Rob Ferreira hospital, while 1640 doses to the Witbank Hospital.

Premier Mtshweni-Tsipane said that South Africa received a consignment of 80 000 Johnson & Johnson jabs from the US at OR Tambo International on the 16th of February before they were flown around the country to different vaccination centres.

She said that this has been the sterling work by the Department of Health as well as the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Covid-19 vaccines. "Government has kept to its commitment to start the vaccination programme by the middle of February," she said.

According to her, the J&J vaccine has been approved as part of the Sisonke study of the Medical Research Council. She said that the vaccines will be located centrally at the Mzansi Ethical Centre warehouse in Middelburg.

"For the first batch, the Medical Research Council identified Rob Ferreira Hospital and Witbank Hospital as the two sites in Mpumalanga to receive the vaccines because of the number of Health Care workers affected," she said.

"The Centre will then distribute it to the two facilities identified by the Medical Research Council for the first batch. Rob Ferreira Hospital is far from Middelburg, hence it will

not be feasible to transport them daily, so it will be stored in the hospital pharmacy. Mzansi will be transporting the required number of vaccines to Witbank Hospital on a daily basis," she explained.

"The J&J vaccines that we have received has a 57% protection against moderate to severe Covid-19 infections, 85% protection against severe infections and 100% protection against death," she said.

She said that she was happy the way that things were unfolding and that the decision to start with the Health Care Workers first was the correct one.

"Statistics show that our Health workers are most susceptible to contract the COVID-19 infection. They are at the forefront on a daily basis and exposed to this virus and the virus might have a detrimental effects to their lives. Let them be prioritised and the rest of us shall follow," she said.

"We are also preparing for a possible third wave that could be experienced in May this year. If this happens, we need to have all our health workers healthy and protected against the virus," she commented.

Premier Mtshweni-Tsipane said that the first phase will cover immunization of all health care workers, whilst the second stage will include essential workers, persons in congregate settings, persons over 60 years of age and persons over 18 years with co-morbidities and phase 3 will cover all persons over 18 years.

"Vaccination Centres will include local

pharmacies and doctors rooms in both public and private facilities. Outreach vaccination programmes shall be conducted by professional outreach teams and will focus on old age homes and other congregated settings," said Premier Mtshweni-Tsipane.

"The work-based vaccination programme will target specific work based areas such as the mining sectors, our industries and government departments," she added.

She emphasized that government will collaborate with the SAPS to provide en-route safety of all vehicles transporting the vaccine from the storage centres to various vaccination centres.

Dr. Savera Mohangi, Head of Department, Department of Health, has been the first citizen in the Mpumalanga Province to get a jab of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

"I have responded very positively to the vaccine and I have not encountered any problem so far," she said.

Premier Mtshweni-Tsipane urged all the Mpumalanga citizens to continue to exercise maximum caution by continuing to wear their masks, practicing social distancing and washing or sanitizing hands regularly and thoroughly.

She also urged citizens to register on the Electronic Vaccination Data System (EVDS).

"If at least 67% of our people are vaccinated, we should have sufficient herd immunity to prevent further transmission of COVID-19 and put an end to the to the devastation of the pandemic," she concluded.



1. **Ms Mohita Latchminarain**
MEC for Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport.
2. **Mr Vusi Mkhathshwa,**
MEC for Finance, Economic Development and Tourism;
3. **Mr Speedy Mashilo, MEC for Department of Human Settlements,**
4. **Ms Busisiwe Shiba,**
MEC for Department of Co-Operative Governance and Traditional Affairs

Mpumalanga Premier reshuffles her cabinet

Mpumalanga Premier Ms Refilwe Mtshweni-Tsipane has executed her cabinet reshuffle at Ehlanzeni District Municipality, Nelspruit. She said that the motivation for the cabinet reshuffle is to optimise the effectiveness in government and ensuring that better services are delivered to the people of Mpumalanga, whilst calibrating the Provincial economy.

"As you will recall, on the 8th of May 2019, the people of Mpumalanga gave this Administration a clear mandate to accelerate holistic economic growth, and to expedite our response to the triple challenges of poverty, inequality and unemployment. This mandate has been exacerbated by the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic," she said. "If we are to be equal to this mandate, it is our responsibility to ensure that this Government is capable, efficient and is strategically poised to oversee the efficient and optimal utilisation of public resources," she commented.

Whilst making changes in the Executive Council, she said that she took a number of considerations into account, key amongst which include members who embody commitment, hard work, integrity and the

non-negotiable commitment to bettering the people's lives.

The newly appointed Members of the Executive Council are:

- Honourable Speedy Mashilo, who will be responsible for the Department of Human Settlements,
- Honourable Busisiwe Shiba who will be responsible for the Department of Co-Operative Governance and Traditional Affairs
- Honourable Vusi Mkhathshwa who will be responsible for Finance, Economic Development and Tourism; and
- Honourable Mohita Latchminarain who will be responsible for the Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport.

The following MECs were moved from their incumbent portfolios to new portfolios;

- MEC Vusi Shongwe will be responsible for the Department of Community Safety, Security and Liaison;
- MEC Thandi Shongwe will be responsible for the Department of Culture, Sport and Recreation;
- MEC Mandla Msibi will be responsible for the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental

Affairs;

- MEC Lindiwe Ntshalintshali will be responsible for the Department of Social Development;
- The appointments of the new members taking up new portfolios in the Executive Council are with immediate effect.

Premier Mtshweni-Tsipane said that the performance of the newly constituted executive will be monitored against specific outcomes and where there is non-performance, decisive action will be taken.

She said that the composition of the Executive Council also re-affirms the commitment to advancing the development of capable female leaders who will continue to constitute 50% of the Executive Council.

Premier Mtshweni-Tsipane also pointed out that a significant number of young people have been included that will infuse vibrancy to re-invigorate the functioning of the Executive Council. She also thanked all the outgoing Members of the Executive.

"Your service to the people of Mpumalanga and your contribution to the development of the Province will forever be heralded in the history books of our beautiful Province," she concluded.