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**TO:
HEADS OF PROVINCIAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS
DISTRICT, HOSPITAL AND PHC MANAGERS
COVID-19 VACCINE PROGRAMME MANAGERS
COVID-19 VACCINATION SITE MANAGERS
COVID-19 VACCINATORS**

NATIONAL VACCINATION PROGRAMME CIRCULAR 2 OF 2022

CHANGES TO DOSING INTERVALS AND INTRODUCTION OF HETEROLOGOUS BOOSTER DOSES

Changes to dosing intervals for Cominarty[®] vaccine

1. From Wednesday, 23rd February 2022, the interval between **the first and second doses of the Cominarty[®] (Pfizer) vaccine will be reduced from 42 days to 21 days**. Furthermore, individuals will be eligible to receive a booster dose **90 days (three months)** after receiving the second dose of the vaccine (reduced from 180 days).

Introduction of heterologous booster doses

2. The circular "Provision of booster doses of Covid vaccines" issued on 23rd December 2021 makes provision for administration of homologous booster doses of COVID vaccines. This circular provides for administration of **heterologous booster doses** i.e. booster doses of a different vaccine to that which was administered as the primary series.
3. From Monday, 21st February 2022 individuals older than 18 years of age who have received one dose of the **COVID-19 vaccine Janssen[®] (J&J)** will be eligible to receive a booster dose of the same vaccine **or a booster dose of Cominarty[®] vaccine** after an interval of two months (60 days).
4. From Wednesday, 23rd February 2022, individuals over the age of 18 years who have received **two doses of the Cominarty[®] (Pfizer) vaccine** will be eligible to receive a booster dose of the same vaccine **or a booster dose of the COVID-19 vaccine Janssen[®]**. In line with paragraph 1 above, individuals will be eligible to receive the booster dose 90 days (three months) after receiving the second of the two doses of the Cominarty[®] vaccine.

5. The decision regarding which vaccine to administer as a booster should be guided by vaccine availability. If both vaccines are available, homologous boosting should be preferred, unless the vaccinee requests to receive a heterologous booster dose, or has a history of experiencing an adverse event following immunisation. (Please remember that all adverse events following immunisation must be reported).
6. From Wednesday 23rd February, the vaccination schedules will therefore be as follows:

Primary Schedule			Booster	
First dose		Second dose		
Cominarty [®] Vaccine	Minimum of 21 day interval	Cominarty [®] Vaccine	Minimum of 90 day interval	Cominarty [®] Vaccine OR COVID-19 vaccine Janssen [®]

OR

Primary Schedule	Booster	
One dose		
COVID-19 vaccine Janssen [®]	Minimum of 60 day interval	COVID-19 vaccine Janssen [®] OR Cominarty [®] Vaccine

7. All booster doses must be recorded on the EVDS.
8. The EVDS is being updated so that individuals who did not receive their primary COVID vaccinations in South Africa, but are eligible to receive a booster dose, can be registered on the EVDS and receive the booster dose. More information regarding the date at which the functionality to record such doses on the EVDS will be available will be provided. Once the functionality is available on the EVDS, the vaccination of such individuals should proceed.



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DIRECTOR-GENERAL: HEALTH
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