



MY DISTRICT TODAY



STAY SAFE

PROTECT SOUTH AFRICA

TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT THE CORONAVIRUS

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PRIORITY 3: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

Government educates residents about vaccination

By Noluvuyo Mangweni: GCIS, Eastern Cape



On 27 January 2021, the Government Communication and Information System in the Sarah Baartman District used Ndlambe FM to educate the residents of Ndlambe and Makana Local Municipality about vaccination and how the COVID-19 vaccine can potentially reduce the number of fatalities.

Dr Luvuyo Bayeni from the Department of Health explained how vaccines have in the past assisted in fighting many diseases. Dr Bayeni touched on the various benefits of vaccination, and also elaborated on the processes of approval for vaccination, and also the planned phases of the roll-out.

Government confirmed that South Africa's planned roll-out of the vaccine would continue with the Johnson & Johnson vaccine in mid-February.

The vaccine has proven effective against the COVID-19 501Y.V2 variant.

Government has also secured doses from Pfizer vaccine for phase one and continues to engage all manufacturers to secure more doses.



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PRIORITY 3: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

COVID-19 rapid screening and testing

By Jacob Mkhize: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal



Department of Health officials screening and testing patients at Mbazwana.



Department of Health COVID-19 team briefing District Director on processes undertaken from testing until results are received by the patient.

As the country continues to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic, healthcare workers had to come up with innovative ways to ensure that people who have tested for COVID-19 receive their results timeously. For this reason, the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health launched a rapid COVID-19 screening, testing and results programme on 27 January 2021 at Mbazwana Clinic in Umhlabuyalingana Local Municipality.

The uMkhanyakude District Health personnel ensured that the programme runs smoothly. The launch of on-site testing and receive results instantly has eased tension and anxiety to patients to wait for days for their results, not knowing what the status of their health is. However, testing and accessing results immediately assists, particularly in cases where patients require some assistance with self-isolation and treatment. Post the launch, the officials continued with the outreach programme to ensure that service is rendered close to where people live.

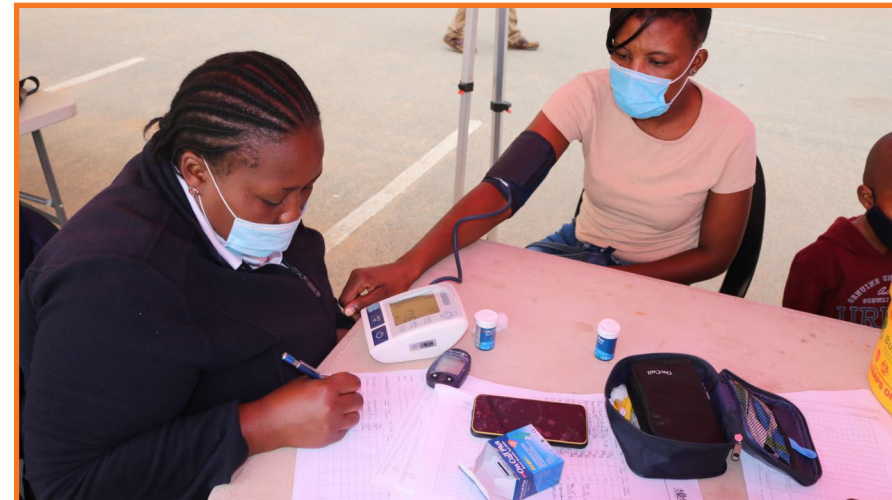
PRIORITY 3: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

COVID-19 awareness programme

By Itumeleng Bogatsu: GCIS, Gauteng



Community members visiting different exhibitions to get health information and services.



Department of Health's Constance Rafutho assisting Constance Mafahla.

As part of creating awareness and promoting adherence to adjusted COVID-19 Alert Level 3 regulations, the Government Communication and Information System, Department of Health and other stakeholders embarked on a testing and screening of various illnesses, including the COVID-19 and promoting health awareness on 5 February 2021 at Norkem Park in Ekurhuleni.

The programme sought to contain the outbreaks and also minimising the impact of the COVID-19. Community members were also informed of the advantages of the COVID-19 vaccine in containing the spread of the virus and were encouraged to take the vaccine as soon as it reaches them although this will not be forced on anyone.

Older people, and those with underlying medical problems such as high blood pressure, heart and lung problems, and diabetes, are more likely to develop serious illness due to COVID-19. There may also be a high risk of severe COVID-19 during pregnancy. Community members are urged to continue adhering to health protocols of wearing a mask, practising social distancing and washing or sanitising hands regularly, as these work against the virus.



Councillor Desmond Mackenzie said:

"Services being provided today includes testing of COVID-19, high blood, glucose, HIV and pap smear among others. We invited communities via the community groups, some have already shown up to undergo all these free services despite these bad weather conditions, we hope many people will still turn up to ensure that they do not miss out on these awesome services. I think it is only fair to thank all these stakeholders for responding positively, this shows how committed our government is in ensuring that this pandemic is combatted and I have no doubt that with this type of commitment, we will win this battle."

PRIORITY 5: SPATIAL INTEGRATION, HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

Broadcasting digital migration oversight visit

By Ntombi Mhlambi: GCIS, Free State



Minister Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams engaging with Phumeza Mantswe, a digital migration decoder beneficiary.



Minister Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams handing over personal protective equipment to the Marantha Clinic.

The Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies, Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams, visited the community of Majwemasweu in Brandfort together with the Free State Education MEC Tate Makgoe on 2 February 2021 for an oversight of government programmes. Minister Ndabeni-Abrahams monitored the implementation process of the broadcasting digital migration project, as there were a number of inefficiencies that were identified in the area, such as slow pace of installation, lack of after care and faulty devices.

The Minister visited some households that are already using the subsidised decoders. She also brought entities that provide services, such as the South African Post Office, Universal Services and Access Agency of South Africa, and SENTECH, to interact with the community. The Minister also visited Marantha Clinic in Majwemasweu and handed over personal protective equipment donated by SENTECH.

Broadcasting digital migration refers to moving broadcasting services from analogue broadcasting technology to digital technologies. Its primary objective is to clear the radio frequency spectrum currently occupied by broadcasters to enable the provision of wireless mobile broadband services and other innovative applications. The decoders give access to more television channels.