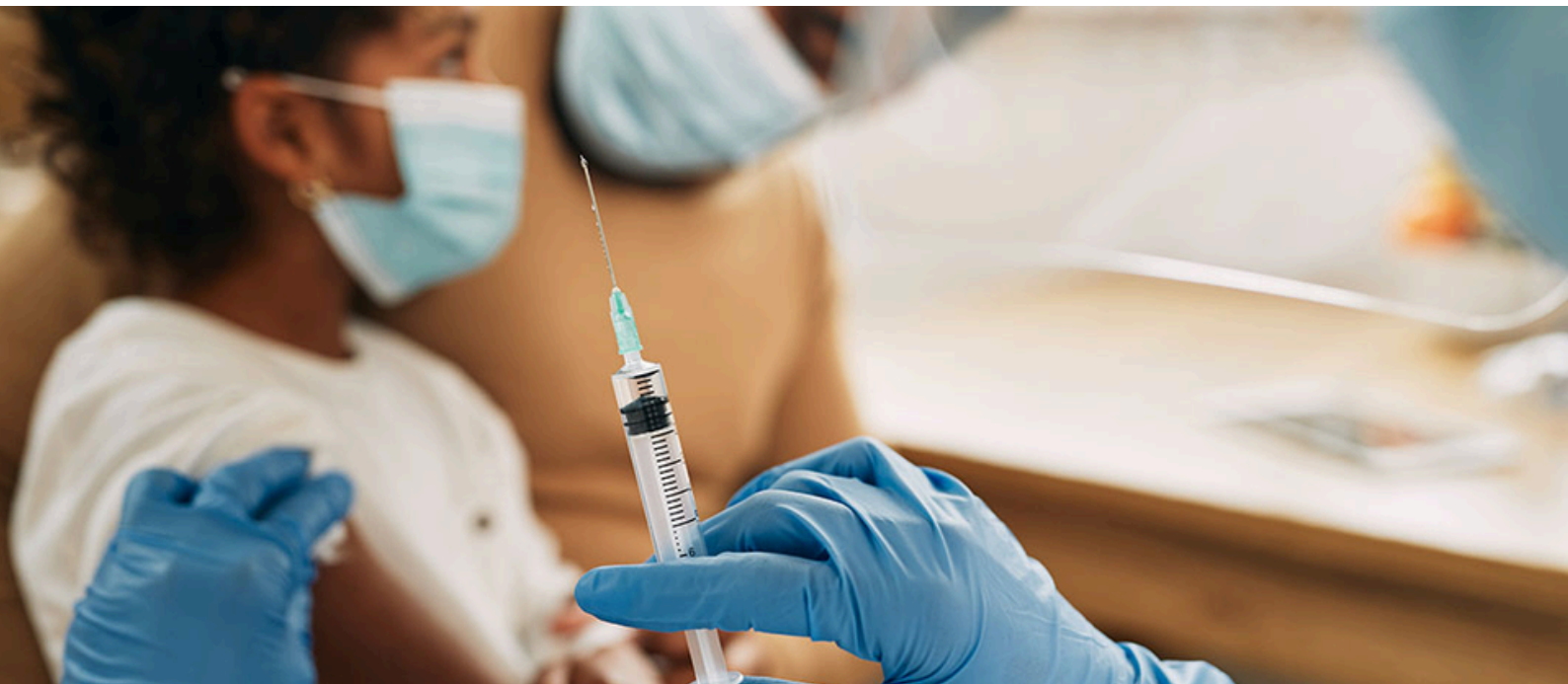


CELEBRATING AFRICAN VACCINATION WEEK IN SOUTH AFRICA



APRIL 2025



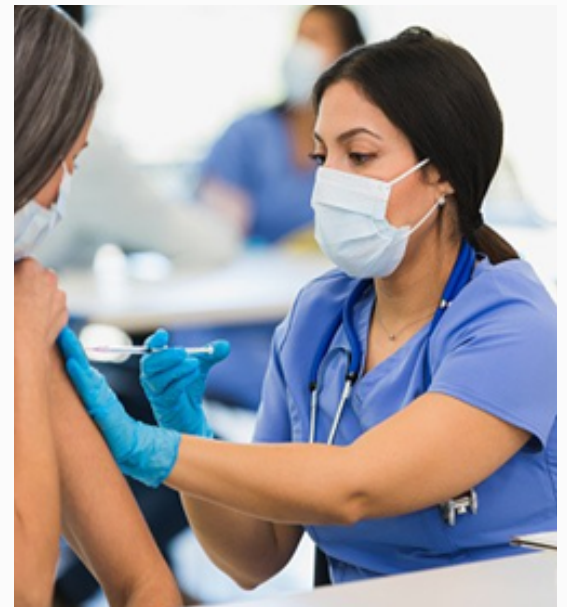
PAN-AFRICAN
MANAGED CARE

As South Africa marks African Vaccination Week (AVW) this 24th to 30th April, we reaffirm the critical role vaccines play in safeguarding lives. Immunisation remains one of the most effective ways to prevent deadly diseases, protect vulnerable groups, and secure a healthier future for all. From eradicating smallpox to controlling polio and measles, vaccines have transformed global health. In South Africa, they remain vital in fighting TB, HPV, COVID-19, and other preventable illnesses - ensuring not just individual protection, but stronger communities through herd immunity.

Despite progress, challenges like vaccine hesitancy, access barriers, and pandemic-related disruptions persist. Misinformation undermines public trust, while rural areas often face logistical hurdles in delivering vaccines. African Vaccination Week is an opportunity to address these gaps through education, outreach programmes, and catch-up campaigns for missed doses. By working together healthcare providers, medical schemes, and communities we can close immunisation gaps and prevent dangerous outbreaks.

Many routine immunisations, including childhood vaccines, flu shots, and travel-related doses, are often covered medical scheme benefits. Adults should also stay up to date with boosters for tetanus, diphtheria, and HPV. Medical scheme can be contacted to confirm coverage and take full advantage of these preventive health benefits.

This African Vaccination week is aimed at prioritising immunisation as a shared responsibility. Vaccines not only protect the vaccinated, but also those who cannot be vaccinated newborns, the elderly, and the immunocompromised. By ensuring your family's vaccinations are up to date, sharing accurate information, and supporting community health efforts, we can build a South Africa free from preventable diseases. Stay informed, stay protected, and help create a healthier future for all.



Members are strongly encouraged to check with their respective medical scheme or health insurance provider to confirm which vaccinations are covered. For Getting Vaccinated at a Government Clinic in South Africa, follow this guideline:

1. Check Eligibility
 - Ensure you meet the age and health eligibility criteria for the vaccine you need (e.g., childhood vaccines, COVID-19, flu shots).
 - Some vaccines require a valid South African ID, birth certificate, or passport.
2. Find a Government Clinic
 - Locate the nearest government clinic offering vaccinations.
 - You can check with the Department of Health website, call the clinic, or visit in person.
3. Visit the Clinic During Operating Hours
 - Arrive early, as government clinics often operate on a first-come, first-served basis.
 - Carry necessary documents, such as your ID, medical aid card (if applicable), and vaccination records.
4. Registration and Screening
 - Proceed to the reception to register for vaccination.
 - Health workers may check your medical history and current health condition.
5. Vaccination Administration
 - A nurse or healthcare worker will administer the vaccine.
 - You may be advised on potential side effects and given a vaccination card or an update to your existing record.
6. Observation Period
 - You may need to wait for 15–30 minutes for monitoring, especially for vaccines with potential allergic reactions.
7. Receive Vaccination Certificate or Record Update
 - For vaccines like COVID-19, you may receive a digital certificate via EVDS (Electronic Vaccination Data System).
 - Childhood immunizations and routine vaccines are recorded in the Road-to-Health booklet.
8. Follow-Up Appointments (If Required)
 - Some vaccines require multiple doses. You will be advised on the next appointment date.
 - Keep your vaccination record safe for future reference.

References

- WHO (2024) African Vaccination Week. Available at: <https://www.afro.who.int/health-topics/african-vaccination-week> (Accessed: 24 March 2025).
- WHO (2023) Immunization coverage: South Africa. Available at: <https://www.who.int/countries/zaf/> (Accessed: 24 March 2025).