



## YOUTH STRUGGLE SHOULD BEGIN WITH THEIR HEALTH



*The commemoration of Youth Month always occasions a sense of bitterness as we reflect on the sad memories of our past. On June 16 1976, hundreds of young people were massacred for daring to stand up against the brutal apartheid regime.*

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Sounds of gun shots, piercing cries and images of defenseless children in school uniform fleeing from heavily armed apartheid security forces, are contained in archived material to ensure that we never forget our history and where we come from. This scenario underscores the sacrifice they made in order for the youth of today to live a better life.

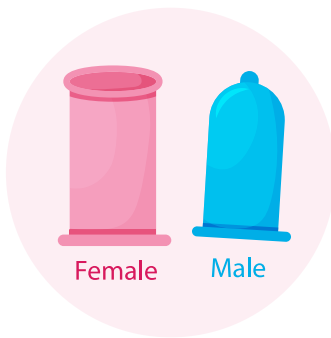
That is why young people of today have a mammoth challenge to vigorously wage the war against

their own new struggle; fighting the scourge of diseases confronting them including the COVID-19 pandemic. KwaZulu-Natal, like the rest of South Africa, is buckling under a quadruple burden of diseases made up of HIV, AIDS, STI's and TB; the high rates of maternal and child mortality (often due to teenage pregnancy); non-communicable diseases (such as cancer, diabetes, obesity, hypertension) and trauma resulting from injuries due to violence and

car crashes.

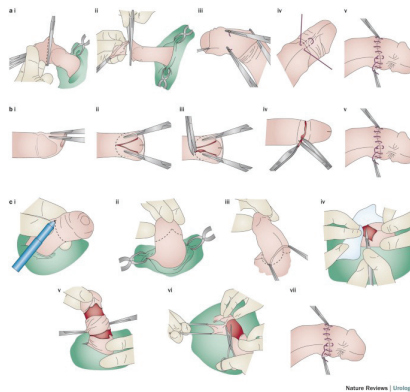
Our society is still faced with a challenge of HIV and Aids, drug and alcohol abuse, teenage pregnancy and illegal abortions among young people. And far too many youth live a sedentary lifestyle, with no physical exercise, which makes them vulnerable to obesity and diseases like diabetes and hypertension. This needs to change, along with prevailing attitudes towards sex and alcohol consumption.

**The Department has a range of health services on offer, free of charge, to help young people fulfil their potential and achieve their goals, including:**



Female Male

Free male and female condoms



Free Medical Male Circumcision (which reduces the risk of female-to-male sexual transmission of HIV by approximately 60%);



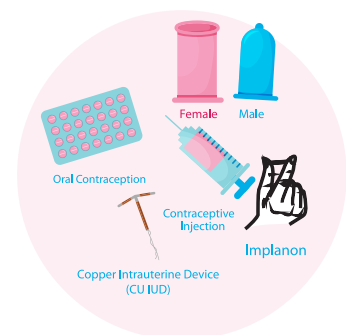
Free counselling and assistance for those addicted to alcohol and drugs;



Hlola Manje Campaign, Adolescent and Youth Friendly Services and Universal Test Treat (UTT)



The Anti-Illegal Abortion Campaign








Dual Protection (using contraceptives such as Implanon, injections or the Loop method methods together with condoms during every episode of sexual contact).

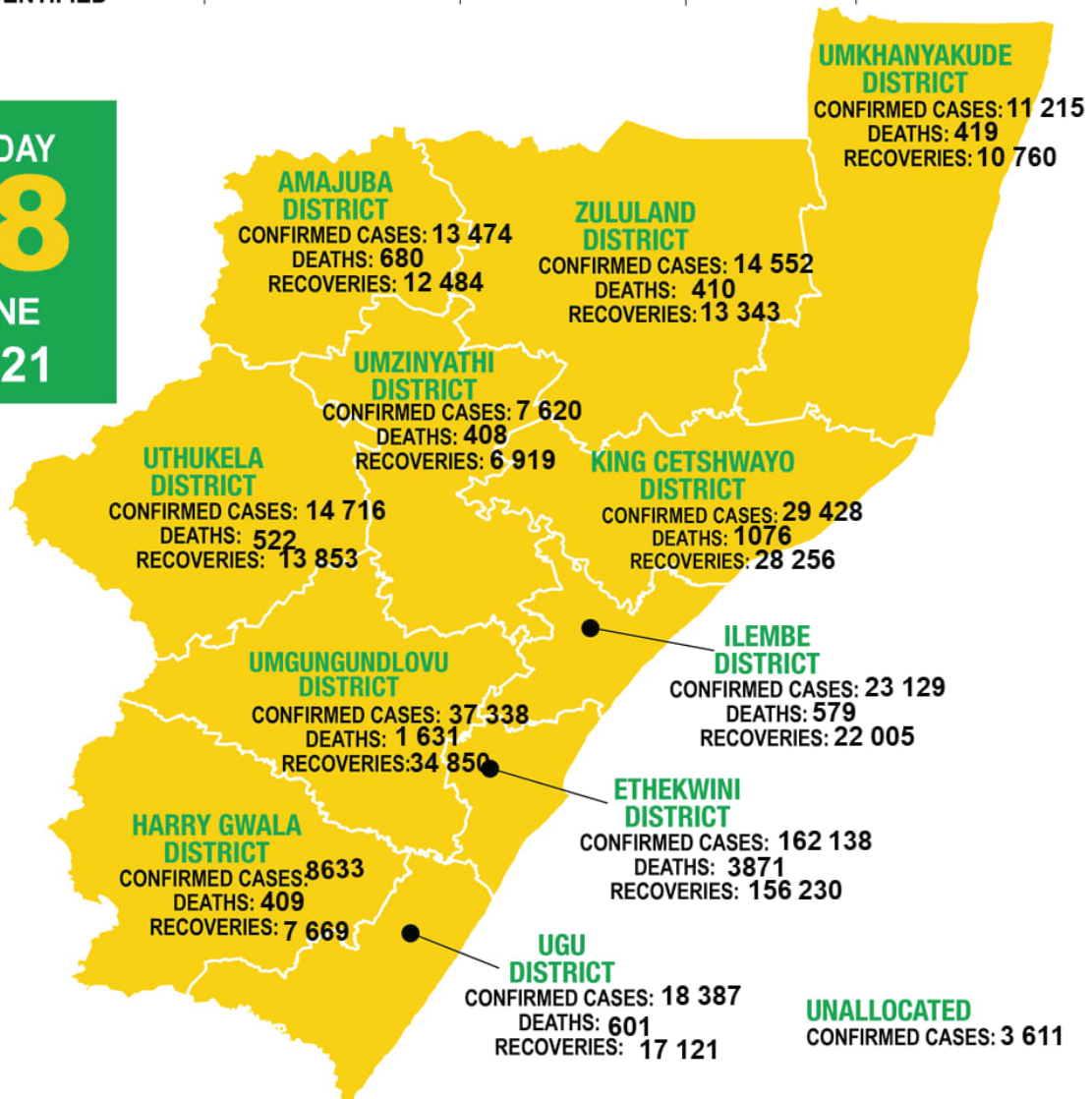
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# COVID-19 STATISTICS IN KZN

				
<b>345 105</b>	<b>6 605</b>	<b>327 030</b>	<b>10 606</b>	<b>454</b>
POSITIVE CASES IDENTIFIED	ACTIVE CASES	RECOVERIES	DEATHS	NEW CASES

FRIDAY  
**18**  
JUNE  
2021



Learn more to Be READY for #COVID19:  
[www.sacoronavirus.co.za](http://www.sacoronavirus.co.za)

NICD Hotline: 0800 029 999  
WhatsApp 'Hi' to 0600 123 456



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# YOUTH DAY FAST FACTS

**While some of us might be aware of South Africa's turbulent history, here are five facts about June 16 that you might not have known:**

1. This year's Youth Day and Youth Month will be celebrated under the theme "The Year of Charlotte Manya Maxeke: Growing youth employment for an inclusive and transformed society." Charlotte Maxeke was the first black woman to go to university and graduate with a university degree in South Africa.

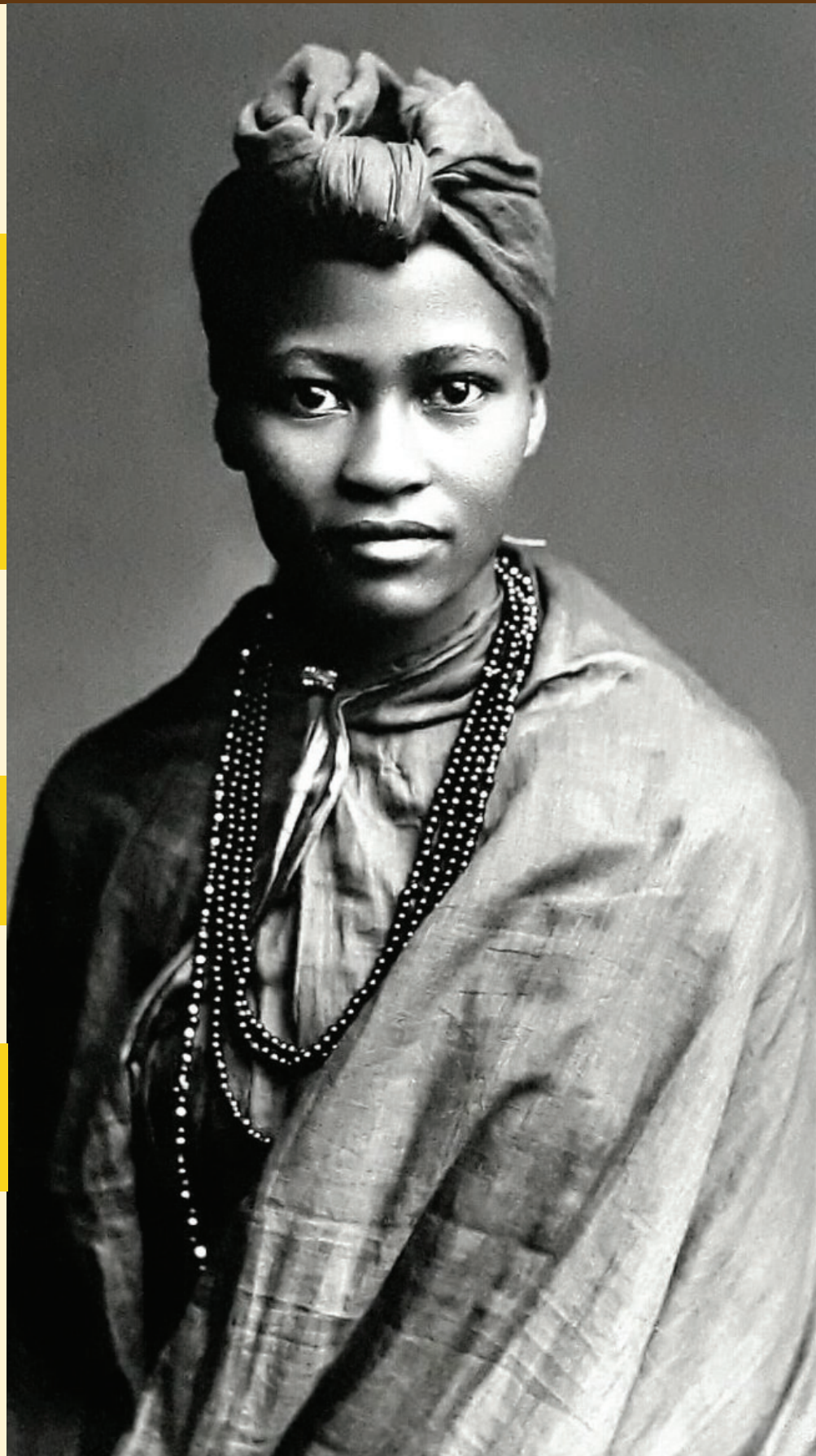
2. June 16 was supposed to be a three-day event, starting June 16 and ending on June 18. The final day, a Friday, was supposed to be the students marching to Orlando Stadium.

3. June 16 was called Youth Day to commemorate the youth who played a role in overcoming the apartheid regime.

4. Nearly 700 people, mostly adolescents, lost their lives on that fateful day of the students' march.

5. Before democracy, R644 was spent annually for each white student, while only R42 was budgeted for black students.

Looking back at South Africa's history and how hard the youth fought for the freedom we have today we can only learn something from the gallant young warriors who levelled the road for us.



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**LET'S  
EMULATE THE  
SPIRIT OF THE  
YOUTH OF  
1976 IN THE  
FIGHT AGAINST  
COVID-19.**

**TOGETHER, WE  
CAN DEFEAT  
COVID-19.**



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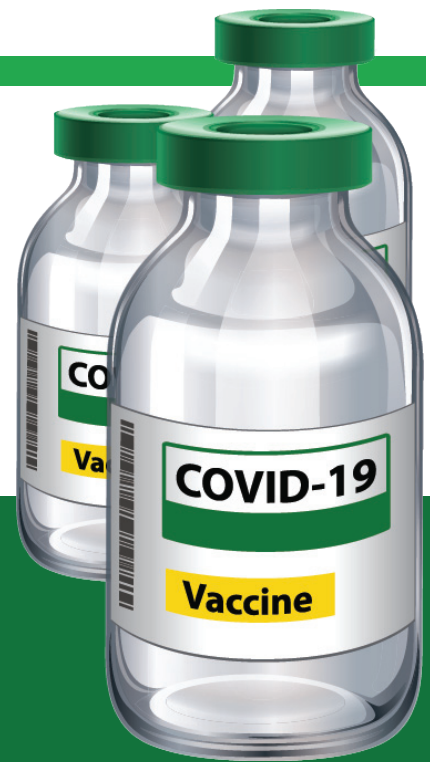
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# COVID-19 VACCINES ROLL OUT BRINGING RELIEF TO THE ELDERLY



**The elderly are now breathing a sigh of relief as the COVID-19 vaccination is targeting them. COVID-19 phase two vaccination prioritises senior citizens at the age 60 and above and people living with comorbidities.**

Other people aged 60 and above said that they registered themselves through the Electronic Vaccination Data System (EVDS) which is accessible on the internet and while others registered manually with the help of the KZN Department of Health nurses and by their younger family members.



Mr Bonginkosi Praisegod Chonco, who is a 64 year-old from Thornville, said he was assisted to register by his daughter who happens to be a nurse. He said he couldn't wait for their time to get vaccinated and that he was not going back to his home without getting vaccinated, and would rather sleep at a vaccination venue if that is what it took.

"I feel very excited and I have been wishing for a long time to get vaccinated because we still want to live life. I drove all the way from Thornville with my own car. But I don't know if I will have any side effects that might impair my driving once I have gotten vaccinated. I want to be back at home as soon as possible to rest. It's very important that I get vaccinated because we also live with young people in our homes," said Chonco.

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Mrs Toni Hanrahan, a 60 year-old woman from Winston Park near Hillcrest and Gillitts, said she was in Pietermaritzburg for two days for her church elective assemble and seized this opportunity to get vaccinated with the rest of her congregation leadership at the Royal Agricultural Showgrounds. She said she was feeling absolutely fine after getting the vaccine jab and would like to encourage other people her age to take this opportunity and get vaccinated.

“Dr Mkhize spoke to us and said to us in 14 days you will basically get the benefits of the vaccine and then in 3 weeks you have the booster and that will mean even if you do get ill, you will be less ill than a lot of people who have got COVID-19 without the vaccine,” said Hanrahan. “And I am hoping to travel as soon as our borders are open. You would want to get the vaccine so you can go to Europe, or wherever if that is what you want. We have got friends from both the UK and the United States who have had the vaccine and we asked them how they feel. They haven’t had any problems and one lady is in her eighties and she said she was fine.

So as I say we want to travel, we want to get past this, where our whole lives are on hold because of this COVID-19 and I think this is a way that could help us and help the medical professionals not to have so many people in hospitals so that they can have a bit of a rest,” said Hanrahan.



Mrs Shobana Maharaj, a 60 year-old from Raisethorpe in Pietermaritzburg said she registered online to get the COVID-19 vaccine and said that it wasn’t complicated at all to register herself as it was normal for her to use a computer.

“I think it’s a good idea to keep safe and secure in terms of the virus. I have taken [the vaccine] and I feel relieved. I don’t know what the after effects will be but it’s a good chance to be on the safe side,” said Shobana. She praised the KZN Department of Health staff of nurses for their efficiency in administering the COVID-19 vaccinations of the elderly during the roll out.

“When we got here we were asked if we are 60 years and over and we were taken to a different section altogether and we didn’t wait with all the others outside and the nurses were very good and very kind,” said Shobana.



Mr John Douglas Wilson, an 80 year-old from Umhlanga said he was part of the Bishops’ party who were getting their vaccines on the day and took that opportunity when he was also invited and allowed to get vaccinated with other clergy leaders in Pietermaritzburg.

About getting people to vaccinate against COVID-19, Wilson said, “I think it’s very good. I think that people must get vaccinated. I think it’s important for everyone to get vaccinated.

I would like to go and see my daughter in England and I don’t think I can go there unless I have had [the vaccine] so I think it’s good that I have been vaccinated.”

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# 83% OF KZN DOH STAFF INDICATED THAT THEY WOULD TAKE THE VACCINE

**A COVID -19 vaccine survey conducted among KwaZulu-Natal Natal Department of Health staff by the Department has revealed that over 60% of the survey respondents said they would recommend the vaccine to others.**



A total number of 877 staff completed the survey from 05 to 12 May 2021, which assessed the experiences, views and perceptions of the Department's staff about the COVID-19 vaccine.

This was revealed by a report compiled by Dr Elizabeth Lutge, Director of Health Research and Knowledge Management and Epidemiology, and Miss Gugu Khumalo who is the Deputy Director of Health Research and Knowledge Management.

“A significant proportion of respondents did have concerns about the vaccination, but these did not seem to detract from their willingness to be vaccinated – 83% of staff indicated that they would take the vaccine (their concerns notwithstanding). A further positive finding was that over 60% would recommend taking the vaccine to others. This positive attitude can be further reinforced through health promotion messaging,” said the report.

The report said sources of

confusion and concern were the variety of vaccines available and the temporary halting of the vaccination programme. “This emphasizes the need to ensure that messaging around the vaccine remains clear, and that as far as possible, no further interruptions in the programme take place,” said the report.

The report further said, “Government, and its employees, is recognized as an important source of information about the vaccine. Around 90% of respondents trust government, manufacturers and scientists in their handling of the vaccine and the vaccination programme. This is a solid foundation on which to build further health promotion efforts.”

Most survey respondents were from eThekweni (34%) and uMgungundlovu (26.2%). Districts in rural settings, namely uMkhanyakude and Zululand, had the lowest number of respondents with a combined total of 28 staff (3.1%). “This may be due to network connections since the survey was conducted online through Google Forms”. Most respondents were administration

staff (39.1%), professional nurses (12.8%), management staff (10.6%) and ‘other’ profession categories (12.7%). The lowest number of respondents were among non-clinical staff, for example, porters, mortuary attendants and security staff.

Most respondents were from the age of 30 to 49 years (59%) followed by the age of 50 to 59 (27.7%) age group, and a total of 870 responses were obtained for the age question, whilst seven staff did not enter their ages. More than two thirds of the respondents were females (598 out of 873 staff, 68.5%) whilst the remaining 31% (271 out of 873 staff) were males. “As with other health seeking behaviour, men should be specifically targeted in health promotion efforts to ensure that they have knowledge of the vaccine and are inclined to take it up,” said the report.

Of the 779 respondents who answered the questions in the section of readiness to take the vaccine, 48% (373) are happy to take the vaccine and have no

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concerns about it, 35% (273) would be happy to take the vaccine but do have concerns, whilst 17% (133) are not happy to take the vaccine and have serious concerns. Importantly, over 60% of respondents said they would recommend the vaccine to others. However, almost 20% said that they did not feel that the vaccine would be effective in preventing COVID-19 infection, and the same percentage felt that there was a high risk of adverse events associated with the vaccination.

Although blood clots have been reported as the most severe side effect in the media, only 15% of respondents believed that there is a high risk of developing blood clots from the vaccine.

Between 8 to 10% of respondents did not trust the scientists, manufacturers and government in terms of the vaccine and the vaccination programme.

The main four sources of COVID-19 information for the staff were the employer (36%), television (28%),

social media (26%) and colleagues (21%). Radio and newspapers followed at 19% and 16% respectively. The least common sources of COVID-19 information for the staff were friends (8%) and family (5%). This is in line with a study conducted in South Africa which reported the two main sources of COVID-19 information as government sources and television. Almost half of the staff (42%) feel they know where to go if they need more COVID-19 information.

	Statements	Yes (N)	Yes (%)
PERCEPTIONS	I do not believe the vaccine will be effective in preventing Covid 19	170	19
	I believe that there is a high risk that the vaccine will harm me	86	10
	I believe that there is a high risk of adverse events from the vaccine	165	19
	I believe that there's a high risk of developing blood clots from the vaccine	131	15
	I believe that there are harmful substances in the vaccine	72	8
	I do not trust the vaccine manufacturers	81	9
	I do not trust the scientists promoting the vaccine	69	8
	I do not trust the government in promoting the vaccine	89	10
	The pause in vaccinations has made me less confident in the vaccine	233	27
	I find the different vaccines (Pfizer, J&J etc.) confusing	214	24
	I have religion based objections to getting the vaccine	29	3
COVID-19 INFORMATION	I receive most of my information about the vaccine from social media	228	26
	I receive most of my information about the vaccine from newspapers	144	16
	I receive most of my information about the vaccine from the radio	170	19
	I receive most of my information about the vaccine from television	246	28
	I receive most of my information about the vaccine from friends	72	8
	I receive most of my information about the vaccine from my family	41	5
	I receive most of my information about the vaccine from my colleagues	181	21
	I receive most of my information about the vaccine from my employer	314	36
	I would like more information about the vaccine from my employer	211	24
	I know where to go at my place of work if I need more information	367	42
	I will recommend the vaccine to others in my community	531	61

# VACCINATION COMPLIMENTS

The Department has been inundated with letters of appreciation and positive news coverage from those who have been vaccinated at the Department's facilities, some experiencing public health services for the first time.

**HATS OFF GENERAL JUSTICE GIZENGA MPANZA HOSPITAL (STANGER HOSPITAL)**

I had my first dose of the Pfizer vaccine today. We chose to be vaccinated at a public facility - a public hospital, what an amazing experience, everything was perfect and oh so efficient, and everyone was so friendly complete with a beautiful smile putting you at ease immediately. The process was so efficient hardly any waiting time except for the mandatory observation time of 15 minutes and away you go with a cheerful goodbye not only from the health facility workers but also all those in the observation room! The job itself was a slight prick, I kid you not, before you know it, finished. Hats off to General Justice Gizenga Mpanza Hospital (Stanger Hospital), I salute the Leadership and frontline staff, you do us proud! Thank you so much, and God Bless your arms with more power!

**SULOOSH PILLAY**  
MEMBER OF THE MINISTERIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MAC) SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

**VACCINATION**

**Excellent service to the community at Queen Nandi Regional Hospital**

CREDIT must be given where it's due. My experience during the acquiring of the Covid vaccination on 21 May was remarkable. The excellent service by all staff members, from the security personnel, those at registration, nurses, and management was amazing. The process was like a well-oiled machine, well planned and organised. The smiling faces of staff under difficult times was unbelievable. The queues were well managed, and the whole process ran smoothly. Keep up the good work all staff members of Queen Nandi Hospital. Your excellent service to the community of Richards Bay/Empangeni will not be forgotten. DANIEL FRANK

**Alisha Kalopdeo** ▶ Kwadukuza - ILEMBE Public Matters & Reporting  
3 h

Late appreciation post:  
On Sunday, 23.05, my mum and aunt went to Town Hall for their vaccine. We arrived at 8.30 and they joined the line, which at that time was near the electricity sub station down the road from the hall. At 10.25 and 10.30 respectively they received their vaccines and after the 15 minutes observation period, were on their way. In those 2 hours of wait time all the staff were attentive and helpful. The security personal kept the line moving smoothly, assisting frail and physically challenged people who couldn't get up the stairs themselves, monitoring the lines, checking on people if they needed assistance being registered... then you got to the nurses sitting outside taking down your info - all with a smile, being patient and understanding when people needed some time or assistance to answer questions. I was not allowed inside as it is only those receiving the vaccine that could go in, but from what my mum and aunt reported the staff were equally as cheery, helpful and very caring. A job well done in these trying times.

**Compliments And Complaints - South Coast KZN**  
Group post by Marilyn Nielson • 2h

**Had my covid vaccination today at Port Shepstone Hospital and I would like to compliment all the staff for their professional services**

Like Comment Share

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To the office of the Medical manager

I would like to extend my gratitude to you and your team for the efficient and seamless running of the Phase 2 vaccination rollout at PMMH.

Family members above the age of 60, had a good experience here and were thoroughly impressed by the service offered. Keep up the excellent work!

Thank you  
Dr Terishia Hariram

← Mrs Ayanda Gumed... Today, 10:44

Sengicabang nokukhansela imedical aid 🤔 if ufika esikhungwen sikahulumen uthole iservice enje, uDr ufika same time 🙌 hhay man awande ama CHC uma kunje, nginichoma uphaphelagwala

← Mrs Ayanda Gumed... Today, 10:41

To the leadership who decided kuth akube no Thobothin Community Health centre, zingan zakwethu lesisukhungo senza omkhulu umehluko 🙌 siyabonga



Ugu Municipality Speaker, Cllr NH Gumedu, in good spirits after receiving her vaccination at GJ Crookes on Wednesday, May 19.

## Vaccinations Progressing Smoothly After Initial Glitches

KWAZULU-NATAL started with phase 2 of the Covid vaccination drive on Monday, May 17. Senior citizens from all walks of life visited their nearest vaccination sites to have their jabs. The GJ Crookes Hospital was a hub of activity as health workers vaccinated the hundreds of seniors who swamped the hospital. Ugu District Municipality Mayor, Cllr Sizwe Ngcobo, led the Covid-19 vaccination site spot check at the GJ Crookes Hospital on Wednesday, May 19. He called on the hospital management to use various means to reach out to the public, in particular those in the rural areas as some do not have access to cell phones to register for the vaccine and are not sure where to go.

During this site inspection, the Ugu District Municipality Speaker, Cllr NH Gumedu, led by example and was vaccinated in order to encourage all senior citizens to participate in the nationwide immunization programme. Scottburgh resident, Mary Mosley (73) said that she was in a very positive mood while being screened before her vaccination at the site. Although the commencement at this site experienced some problems, the acting hospital CEO, Dr V Kgabo, urged senior citizens to be patient. Dr Kgabo, said that by Wednesday, May 19, GJ Crookes had received an overwhelmingly positive response with 1 515 seniors being vaccinated. She noted the problems of long queues and stressed the need

for seniors to register as this helps to eliminate waiting time. She said that the hospital had experienced unregistered seniors coming to the site and they had been attended to. More vaccination sites in Umdoni will be announced soon to help fast-track the vaccination process. Umdoni Mayor, Cllr Sibongile Khathi, encouraged those who have not yet registered to do so urgently. "The third wave is already upon us. It is therefore imperative that the elderly are immunized."

While the rest of the country awaits its immunization, the public is urged to practise the three primary prevention measures of wearing a mask, sanitizing hands and ensuring social distancing at all times.

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