

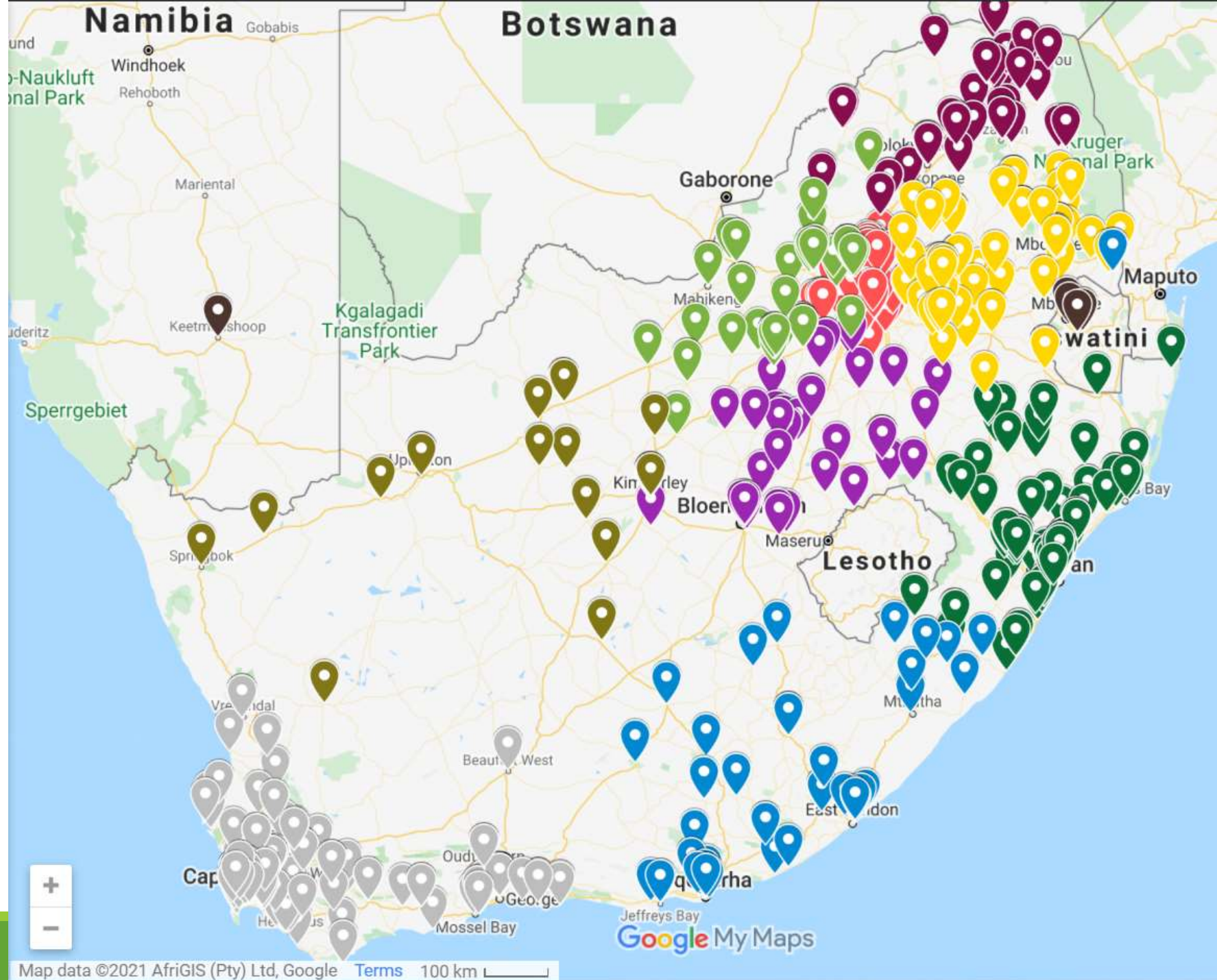


Role of community pharmacies in the vaccination rollout

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1230
Independent
Community
Pharmacies
across South
Africa



Vaccinations through pharmacy

With the arrival of the first vaccines in South Africa, pharmacists as the custodians of medicine and experts in cold chain management, were central to the vaccine supply chain.

Pharmacies serving their local community joined the vaccination rollout programme in the largest public private partnership ever seen in SA.

With their primary health clinics, pharmacists and nursing sisters are ideally positioned to offer COVID-19 vaccinations in a health setting.



Ask Your Pharmacist

- Pharmacists are accessible health care professionals
- Available long retail hours, after-hours and over weekends
- Offer advice over any vaccine concerns, co-morbidity questions or worries over potential drug interactions
- Pharmacies have remained open even through hard lockdown and put effective infection control measures in place to keep people safe



Vaccination Site Preparedness

The process to become a vaccination site is a complex process with numerous stops and checks;

- Curation by the South African Pharmacy Council
- Permit issued by National Department of Health
- COVID-19 Vaccine training for vaccinators
- Site readiness checks and registration of site on EVDS and SVS
- Ordering of consumables eg syringes, needles, diluent
- Safe disposal of used sharps, vials, medical waste
- Implementation of strict infection control protocols
- Ordering and cold chain management of vaccines



Intended to ensure a safe vaccination environment for you the public

Processing vaccinations

- Vaccinators and administrators checked and then registered on EVDS
- Stock is received, cold chain checked and stock put directly into freezers or fridges and uploaded into the SVS to monitor usage & stock levels
- Fridges have 24 hour monitoring devices and temperatures are checked and recorded twice daily
- Once defrosted vaccines cannot be refrozen and they must be used within the efficacious time frame
- Day of vaccination, vials are brought to room temperature, any reconstitution is done and vials are monitored and used within new time frames
- Every step is monitored and recorded to ensure vaccines are not compromised and are effective at time of vaccination

Taking Vaccines to the People

Outreach services from pharmacies are being offered to cover;

- Retirement villages
- Old age homes
- Mines
- Factories
- Work places and businesses



Equitable Access

Pharmacy vaccinations sites accept eligible people;

- Who have scheduled vaccination appointments from EVDS
- appointments booked by phone, email or whatsapp
- walk-ins (vaccine and slots permitting)
- both insured and uninsured
- with SA ID documents or passports
- at no cost to the person



Vaccination Site Onboarding

- Total Number of sites currently vaccinating : 324
- Average vaccinations per site per day: 99
- Total sites with permits & ready to vaccinate: 588
- Sites in pipeline: 264
- Percentage of sites ready or vaccinating: 55%
- Current site capacity >30 000 per day
- Full site capacity if all sites online about 50 000 vaccinations daily
- 1000 000 vaccinations per month

Vaccination Site Activation

- 17 May – first 2 sites in Gauteng – Ackermans and East Park Pharmacies, our pioneers, who now jointly provide 1200 vaccinations/day
- 24 May – 25 sites mostly rural – Laphalele, Thabazimbi, etc
- More Pfizer sites were added each week
- The arrival of J&J vaccines this week has added many more vaccination sites especially in the underserviced and rural areas such as Giyani, Thaba Nchu, Mamelodi and Khayelitsha

Pharmacies and Doctors

- 3599 pharmacies includes corporate pharmacies also providing vaccinations
- General practitioners waiting to come online many working together with pharmacy
- Hospitals
- Occupational health sites
- Working towards 1000 000 shots every 3 days by the private sector

Vaccinations in Pharmacy Clinics



The Experience

- The experience on the ground remains one of hope and positivity
- Millions already vaccinated
- 35s and over registering and arriving with parents & grandparents to be vaccinated
- 18s and over already phoning to book for 01 September 2021
- Large supply of vaccines secured for the foreseeable future
- Negotiation of smaller pack size delivery of vaccines allowing more pharmacies and GPs to join
- Every vaccination has the potential to save a life