



health

Department:  
Health  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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Date:	18 August 2021		
To:	<b>Honourable Dr Joe Phaahla, Minister of Health</b>	From:	<b>Ministerial Advisory Committee on COVID-19 Vaccines [VMAC]</b>

**ADVISORY**  
**RECOMMENDATION FOR PERSONS ENTERING SOUTH AFRICA WHO HAVE BEEN  
VACCINATED AGAINST COVID-19 OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY**

**Problem Statement**

Persons entering South Africa may be incompletely vaccinated or may have received vaccines that are not currently used in South Africa. Their vaccination status needs to be confirmed especially regarding eligibility for additional COVID-19 vaccination in South Africa.

Background

The normal practice is that if more than one dose of a vaccine (excluding the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine) is required then the schedule is completed using the same vaccine. However, persons entering South Africa may have received a dose of a different vaccine that are not used as part of the current vaccine program in this country. Alternatively, individuals may have received a full course of a vaccine not approved in South Africa.

This guide serves to assist with decision making for vaccinating individuals entering South Africa who may have received vaccines against COVID-19 outside the country.

**Recommendations**

1. Pfizer is the vaccine currently recommended to complete the vaccination schedule as there is evidence that it does work well if used as a booster to the AstraZeneca and Moderna vaccine and by implication it is likely to work for other vaccines as well.
2. Individuals have to be counselled and advised that that there is limited data on safety and efficacy when mixing vaccines other than those mentioned above. In addition, previous vaccination status must be recorded.

Current vaccination status	Recommendation
Two doses of AstraZeneca, Pfizer, Moderna, Sinovac, Sinopharm or Sputnik V OR Single dose of Johnson & Johnson	Regard as fully vaccinated – no action required.
Single dose of AstraZeneca, Pfizer, Moderna, Sinovac, Sinopharm or Sputnik V	Give booster dose of Pfizer at least 6 weeks after last vaccination dose.
Received any other vaccine (whether fully or partially vaccinated)	Give booster Pfizer vaccine at least 6 weeks after last vaccination dose.

ADVISORY ON RECOMMENDATION FOR PERSONS ENTERING SOUTH AFRICA WHO HAVE BEEN VACCINATED  
AGAINST COVID-19 OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY

Thank you for consideration of this request.

Kind regards,



**PROFESSOR BARRY SCHOUB**

**CHAIRPERSON: MINISTERIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON COVID-19 VACCINES**

**DATE: 18/08/2021**

**CC:**

- **Dr S Buthelezi (Director-General: Health)**
- **Dr T Pillay (Deputy Director-General: Health Regulations and Compliance Management)**