

Classification



correctional services

Department:
Correctional Services
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

UPDATE ON THE STATUS OF COVID-19 IN SOUTH AFRICA

**Strategic Planning Session
07 – 09 December 2021
Virtual**

CDC Incarceration and Corrections

File Reference No
Example
S/5/1 (Font Arial 10)

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PURPOSE

The purpose of this presentation is to:

- Provide an update on the status of COVID-19 in South Africa and indicate the actions required.



SUMMARY

- Viruses constantly change through mutation and new variants occur over time thus SARS-CoV-2 is no exception.
- The genetic variations occur over time and can lead to emergence of new variants that may have different characteristics e.g. severity, the speed in spreading, but so far the management is exactly the same.
- There is still a lot that is not known about the COVID-19 variants and genomic surveillance is continuing.

SUMMARY

- Delta continues to dominate in all provinces until end October 2021.
- New B.1.1.529 lineage first detected from specimens collected in Gauteng on 22 November 2021. Sequencing is ongoing to determine prevalence of B.1.1.529 in other provinces.
 - Identified in Botswana first and now Belgium and Israel.
 - No unusual symptoms have been reported following infection with the B.1.1.529 variant and as with other variants some individuals are asymptomatic.

SUMMARY

What are the implications? Will these mutations affect vaccine effectiveness, disease severity, and transmissibility?

- B.1.1.529 has the potential to increase transmissibility, however work is still under way to investigate the response to vaccines and monitor the hospitalization as well as the outcomes associated with this variant.
- It is worth noting that partial immune escape is likely, but is likely that vaccines will still offer high levels of protection against hospitalization and death.

SUMMARY

- It is expected that new variants will continue to emerge whenever viruses are spreading.
- Vaccination remains critical to protect against hospitalization and death, reduce strain of the health system and slow the transmission of the virus



PROBLEM STATEMENT

The emergence of a new variant namely **B.1.1.529 (Omicron /Nu)**

- The variant classified as Variant of Concern (VOC) by the World Health Organization (WHO) as at 26 November 2021.



CUMULATIVE CONFIRMED COVID-19 CASES - COUNTRY

As per the National Department of Health (NDoH) on the 02nd December 2021, there were 11 535 new COVID-19 cases that were reported in South Africa, bringing the total number of laboratory-confirmed cases to 2 988 148 cases.

This increase represents a 22.4% positivity rate.

The majority of new cases were from Gauteng (72%), followed by Western Cape (6%). KwaZulu-Natal accounted for 5%. Limpopo, Mpumalanga and North West each accounted for 4% respectively; Free State and Eastern Cape each accounted for 2%. Northern Cape accounted for 1% of today's new cases.

There was a further 44 COVID-19 related deaths reported, bringing the total fatalities to 89 915 as at 02 December 2021.



CUMULATIVE CONFIRMED COVID-19 CASES - DCS

According to the reports received from the regions, there were 43 new confirmed cases reported during the week of 26 November to 02 December 2021.

The majority of the new cases were reported in LMN with 26 (60%) new cases, followed by Gauteng 14 (33%) new cases, then WC with 02 (5%) and lastly KZN with 01 (2%) new case. There were no new cases reported in the EC and FSNC bringing the total cumulative confirmed COVID-19 cases in DCS to 6 863 with 46 active cases for inmates.

The recovery rate is at 6 714 (97.8%) whilst the cumulative deaths were at **101 (1.47%)**.



PROBLEM STATEMENT CONT'D

Currently Designated VOCs

WHO Label	Lineage	Earliest documented sample	Date of designation
Alpha	B.1.1.7	UK, Sep 2020	18 Dec 2020
Beta	B.1.351	SA, May 2020	18 Dec 2020
Gamma	P1	Brazil, Nov 2020	11 Jan 2021
Delta	B1.617.2	India, Oct 2020	VOI: 4 April 2021 VOC: 11 May 2021
Omicron	B.1.1.529	Multiple countries, Nov 2021	VUM: 24 Nov 2021 VOC: 26 Nov 2021



ACTIONS REQUIRED

- The **DCS SOP** is still relevant and implementation thereof should continue as it covers the preparedness, preventative strategies, detection and response to COVID-19.
- Implementation and compliance to the approved **Risk Adjusted Strategy** during National Lockdown: COVID-19.
- The implementation of **public health and social measures** (previously called non-pharmaceutical interventions) = such as:
 - Social/Physical distancing (1 meter or more), wearing of masks and hand hygiene, avoid unnecessary gatherings or opt to gather in well ventilated spaces.
 - These remain the cornerstone of COVID-19 infection prevention.

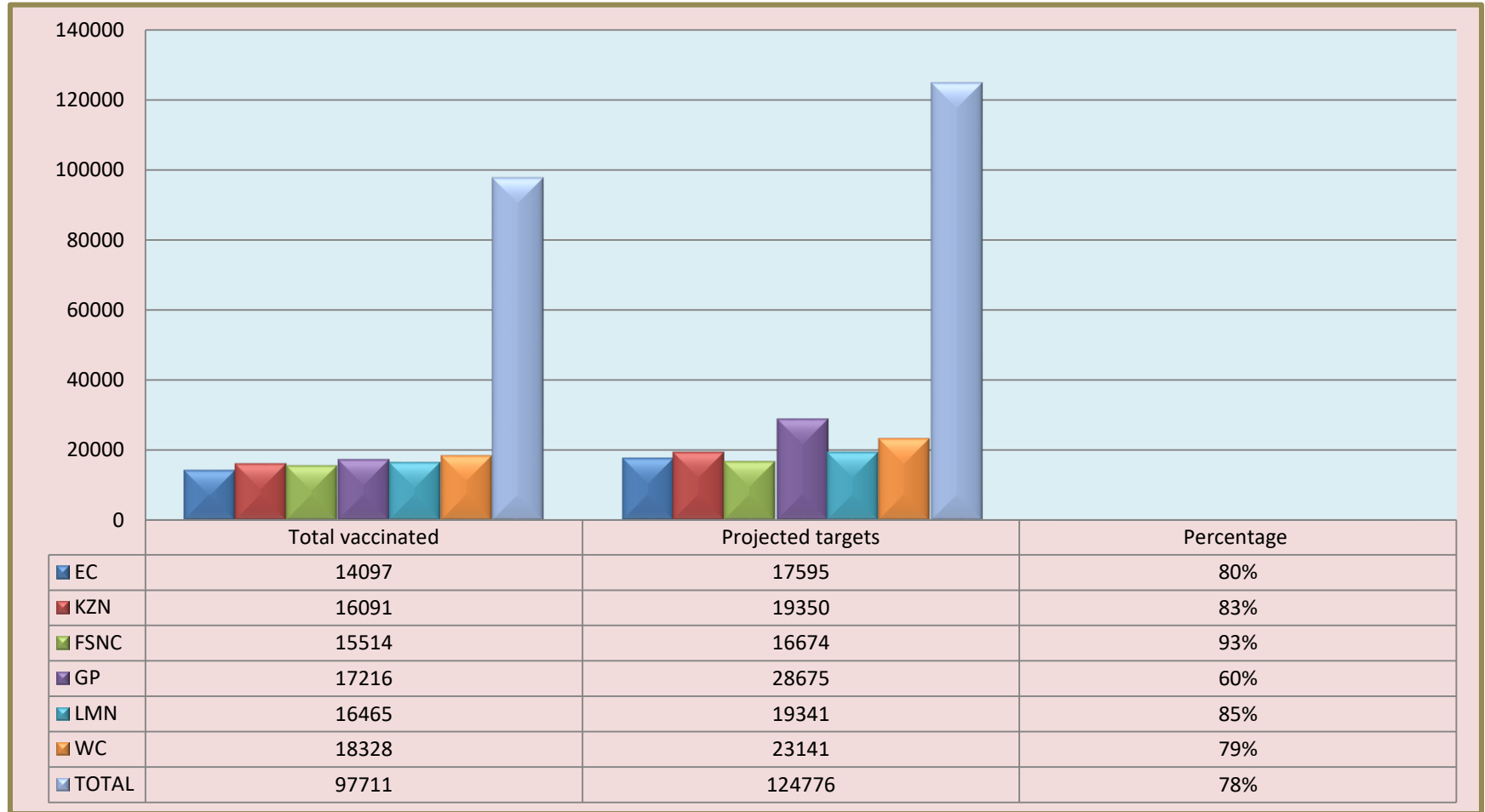


ACTIONS REQUIRED CONT'D

- Even with continued behavioral fatigue, rapid vaccination of the population provides a powerful tool to reduce severe illness and death.
- Mass vaccination where high numbers are vaccinated ensures quicker achievement of herd immunity compared to slow uptake (VOOMA Campaigns).
- ***Therefore vaccination of inmates and officials must continue, especially in Management Areas where the numbers are currently low to ensure maximum protection against severe disease as a result of COVID-19.***
 - Inmate vaccination target 90%
 - Officials COVID-19 vaccination target 70%
- Implementation of the above mentioned measures will certainly limit the impact of the fourth wave.



STATUS OF INMATE VACCINATIONS (02 DECEMBER 2021)



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- Vaccination projections utilizing unlock totals as 01 November 2021.
- Vaccinated probationers and parolees excluded from the statistics
- Vaccinations included fully vaccinated inmates. i.e. Two doses Pfizer and Johnson and Johnson.



CONCLUSION

- It is important to highlight that different variants will continue to emerge, but the preventative measures remains the same until further notice.



THANK YOU



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