



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Ministerial Building
Harvey Street
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Windhoek

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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nicholaus.shapumba@mhss.gov.na

Ref: 01/02/21
Enq: Mr. N.Shapumba

Date: 19 February 2021

Ms. Esme Botes
Chairperson
Namibia Association of Private Hospitals
Rhino Park Hospital
Windhoek, Namibia

Att: Tracy@namonocology.com

Dear Ms Botes,

RE: REQUEST FOR AN ESTIMATION OF INTEREST FROM HEALTH CARE WORKERS AND SUPPORT STAFF AT PRIVATE HEALTH FACILITIES TO RECEIVE THE COVID-19 VACCINE

Namibia has been severely affected by the impact of COVID-19 and one of the mitigation methods to help the country recover from the impact of this virus is to offer **voluntary vaccination** against COVID-19 to people over the age of 16 living in Namibia. The vaccine will be offered in stages according to a defined risk-rating. **Health Care Workers and Support Staff at health facilities are prioritized in stage 1** due to increased exposure and risk of contracting COVID-19 infection. In addition to taking steps to roll out the COVID-19 vaccine, the Ministry continues to uphold the importance of handwashing, distancing and mask wearing in curbing the spread of the virus.

In order to determine the demand for the COVID-19 vaccine among health care workers and support staff, the Ministry of Health and Social Services is requesting all private health facilities **to sensitise and mobilise** their staff members who may be interested to receive the vaccine when it becomes available in country, and when it is offered for their age and risk group.

Please note that **this expression of interest is voluntary**. This request is for the Ministry to obtain a rough estimate of demand for the COVID-19 vaccine. Individuals shall not be forced to declare their interest for the vaccine.

All official correspondence must be addressed to the Executive Director.



RE: REQUEST FOR AN ESTIMATION OF INTEREST FROM HEALTH WORKERS AND SUPPORT STAFF AT PRIVATE HEALTH FACILITIES TO RECEIVE THE COVID-19 VACCINE

We kindly ask that you designate a staff member to ascertain interest from your employees/members. Please indicate the number of those interested in receiving the COVID-19 vaccine **by region, health district, health facility, sex, age, occupation, and contact number(optional)**. There is no need to provide names at this stage. Persons may wish to also indicate whether they have any comorbidities, but are not required to do so.

When the COVID-19 vaccine becomes available, it will be offered free of charge to individuals, with the cost being covered by the Government (including donations and contributions from the private sector) and, where relevant, the medical aid funds. A list of talking points is attached to this letter which may be of use to the assigned person when discussing the request for interest with staff members. We highly recommend that employers have in-person discussions with their staff, and that the staff members are given sufficient time to ask questions and receive answers. There is significant misinformation circulating around the world about the COVID-19 vaccines and it is important that all people have an opportunity to express their concerns, and receive clear and factual information. The Ministry is available to provide further information when needed.

Please send your final list to Mr. Nicholas Shapumba at email nicholaus.shapumba@mhss.gov.na before or on **Thursday 25 February 2021**. Should you need assistance in responding to questions asked, please contact Mr. Nicholas Shapumba at Tel 061-203-2717/2725 or by email provided above.

Please accept our appreciation for assisting the Ministry with this important planning endeavor.

Your Sincerely,


BEN NANGOMBE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR





REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

VACCINE MESSAGES

Topline messages

1. COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective.
2. The Government of Namibia and the Namibia Medicines Regulatory Council will review and approve COVID-19 vaccines before they are used in Namibia.
3. You can help stop the COVID-19 pandemic by getting a COVID-19 vaccine when it is available.
4. The COVID-19 vaccine will be offered to you on voluntary basis.
5. The Government will provide the COVID-19 vaccine free of charge.
6. The Government will offer the vaccine in stages to different groups of people. You will be asked if you would like the vaccine when it is your turn.
7. Some people have had some side effects after the COVID-19 vaccine. This is a normal sign that your body is building protection.
8. The COVID-19 vaccine will protect you and the people around you from COVID-19 infection. The vaccine will not change your DNA or cause any deformities.
9. No Chip will be implanted in your body.
10. After you have the vaccine, you still need to wear a mask, wash your hands and keep your distance until we know more about how well the vaccine prevents people from passing the virus on to others.
11. The world has worked together sharing knowledge and resources. Namibia is proud to be part of the World's achievement to offer the COVID-19 vaccines.