



## REPEALING OF COVID-19 REGULATIONS TALKING POINTS 23 June 2022

### ***Government has repealed all remaining COVID-19 regulations.***

- South Africans are no longer required to wear face masks and limits on gatherings have been removed.
- International travellers entering South Africa will no longer be required to produce a recent negative PCR test.
- Our decision is based on the current epidemiological trend which points towards lower infection rates and that the country has exited the 5<sup>th</sup> wave.
- It is also the result of the sufficient population immunity we have recorded that saw a reduction in the burden of severe illness and death.
- A recent study by the South African National Blood Service estimates that sufficient numbers of South Africans have detectable antibodies to SARS-CoV-2.
- The repealing of the regulations is a milestone in our fight against the pandemic and is a sign of the progress we have made together as a nation.

### ***Do not let your guard down! COVID-19 is still with us.***

- Government urges all South Africans not to let their guard down because COVID-19 is real and deadly.
- The virus has not been eradicated and we cannot simply go back to life as we once knew it.
- We must continue to be cautious, consider the effect of our actions on others and take extreme care especially those with co-morbidities.
- Individuals at increased risk of severe COVID-19 remain older people, those with chronic underlying conditions, people living with HIV, individuals with tuberculosis, people receiving immunosuppressive treatment and pregnant women.
- Those at increased risk of severe COVID-19 may wish to take additional precautions such as :
  - Wearing a well-fitting mask when attending gatherings.
  - Avoiding large gatherings, crowds and poorly ventilated spaces.
  - Wash your hands often with soap and water

***Government thanks all South Africans for rallying in the fight against COVID-19.***

- The support and cooperation of citizens over the past 2 years strengthened our nation's fight against COVID-19.
- We appreciate the collective action and many personal sacrifices made to stop the spread of the virus.
- Your actions also helped us deal with older respiratory diseases such as influenza and TB.
- We thank leaders in our faith-based institutions, civil society, traditional formation, business, academia, youth and women organisations for rising to the occasion.

***Our vaccine programme reached millions of people.***

- Our national vaccination program is now being integrated into our normal health services.
- We have administered 36,7 million vaccine doses to 20.09 million adults and 1,9 million children between 12 to 17 years of age.
- In total, we have reached an average of 50.48% of the population with at least one dose of the vaccine.
- We applaud the 70,5% turnout in the 60+ age group and 66,17% turnout in the 50 - 59 age group.
- The large turnout of the 50+ age group also help reduced the severity in hospitalisation and mortality during in the fourth wave.

***Vaccinations remains our best form of protection against COVID-19.***

- The more people that get vaccinated, the less likely it is that we will experience a resurgence of infections.
- Vaccination remains our best defence and reduces the risk of serious illness, hospitalisation and death.
- Protect yourself against the current and future COVID-19 variants by taking the vaccine.
- Make sure you are protected to avoid any new surge in infections.

***Booster vaccines doses further enhance existing protection.***

- The COVID-19 booster shot is an additional dose given to people who have already been vaccinated.
- Those eligible for the booster shot are people who have taken two doses of the Pfizer vaccine and a single dose of the J&J vaccine.
- The booster dose helps people maintain lasting immune protection against COVID-19 and protects them from severe emerging variants.
- The booster dose reminds the body's immune system to produce more antibodies against the virus.