

Interactions between Mohale Moloi and WC health department.

Friday 26 March 2021

From Me to Marika Champion:

Hello Marika. Mohale here from Bhekisia.

I hope you are well.

I am sorry, I must have called at a busy time. I am working on a story about the Covid-19 vaccination sites under the Sisonke programme.

I have been trying to gain an understanding of how provincial health departments are involved in the choosing of sites.

Is there anyone at the Western Cape Health department I could speak to about this?

Kind regards.

Response from Mark van der Heever

The current vaccination sites because it is through the Sisonke Implementation study have been identified in collaboration with the research teams to meet the required criteria. But we will eventually move out of this process. Once we move out of this implementation study the vaccination programme will be dependent on a range of aspects from proximity of the people to the capacity of the facility, cold chain facilities, infrastructure as well as the necessary safety measures. This is all dependent on where we find ourselves during that specific circumstances – we could be where we are now or in the 3rd wave which would mean we would have to de-escalate clients from our facilities because those facilities would need to be opened up again for testing. There are a range of factors at play which need to be considered regularly as we move forward and we are always taking these factors into account as we plan for additional vaccination sites.

Thanks, Mark van der Heever (Audio statement included)

Monday 29 March 2021

Questions from me to Mark van der Heever

1. Can you please elaborate on what criteria need to be met for a site to be considered capable of handling vaccinations? (if you can't give a full break down, please give a few examples)
2. Who from the provincial health department leads discussions with the Sisonke research team about choosing a site?
 - a. How often does this person/people meet to discuss sites?
3. How is oversight done at the vaccination sites - is there a site manager who is appointed to make sure things go smoothly?

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4. Is there an intention or discussions happening about transitioning vaccination sites under the Sisonke implementation study, into sites for the broader national roll out?

Tuesday 30 March 2021

Answers received from Deanna Bessick, Communications Officer ECSS: Emergency & Clinical Services Support at the Western Cape Health Department.

Mohale: Can you please elaborate on what criteria need to be met for a site to be considered capable of handling vaccinations? (if you can't give a full break down, please give a few examples)

The Western Cape Government Department of Health adheres to a vaccination site readiness pack that has been compiled by the National Department of Health. Guidelines for site readiness are included in the annexure with the check list that is strictly followed. The general vaccination site requirements are as follows:

- a. **Vaccination sites should be clean, and the area should not directly exposed to sunlight, rain, or dust.**
- b. **The vaccination site should be well ventilated, and all fixed sites should be temperature controlled.**
- c. **Vaccination sites should have space where clients can sit before being vaccinated.**
- d. **Vaccination sites should have spaces for registration, screening, vaccinating, and recording.**
- e. **Vaccination sites require all necessary equipment and furniture to provide the vaccination services including desks, tables, and chairs.**
- f. **Vaccination sites must have appropriate waste disposal systems.**

Reporting System requirements:

- a. **Vaccination sites must have a computer or other device to report vaccination data using the EVDS.**
- b. **The computer or other device used for EVDS reporting must have appropriate connectivity to submit data.**
- c. **The vaccination site must provide stock-on-hand information to the National Department of Health as per the defined schedule and agreed reporting systems.**
- d. **It is recommended that the vaccination site make use of 1D and 2D Barcode scanners as far as possible for scanning barcodes and QR codes located on**

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(Medical Vials, Green Barcoded ID Book, Drivers Licence, Smart ID and Passports etc) this will assist in accurate data collection into the EVDS System.

Vaccine storage requirements:

- a. **Vaccination sites must have appropriate and sufficient cold chain storage capacity to comply with the manufacturers' vaccine storage requirements and to accommodate the volume of vaccine required to be stored at the provided to the site.**
- b. **Vaccination sites must have WHO PQS continuous temperature monitoring and logging devices to monitor the vaccines' storage temperature, which displays alarms, min/max temperatures, and a log of temperature readings.**
- c. **Vaccination sites must have alternative power sources to maintain the cold storage conditions in a power failure event.**
- d. **Vaccination sites will have a contingency plan which include alternative storage locations if the cold storage unit fails, transport to such a facility, suitable passive containers to transport the vaccine to the specified site.**

Mohale: Who from the provincial health department leads discussions with the Sisonke research team about choosing a site?

- a. How often does this person/people meet to discuss sites?

The Chief Director: General Specialist & EMS, Western Cape Health and the Provincial Project Office liaises with the Sisonke research team.

The team have met from Monday to Friday and have decided to meet thrice a week from next week onward.

Mohale: How is oversight done at the vaccination sites - is there a site manager who is appointed to make sure things go smoothly?

The vaccination sites are managed by the provincial health department's staff. Each site has an assigned manager and support team.

Mohale: Is there an intention or discussions happening about transitioning vaccination sites under the Sisonke implementation study, into sites for the broader national roll out?

Yes, discussions are currently underway.