



Wes-Kaapse Provinsiale Parlement  
Western Cape Provincial Parliament  
IPalamente yePhondo IeNtshona Koloni

REF: WCPP 11/4/9

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH**

Friday, 5 August 2022, (at 09:00) Committee Room 2, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor

**PRESENT**

**Members:**

**Democratic Alliance**

Philander, WF (Chairperson)  
Plato, D

**African National Congress**

Windvogel, R

**Additional Members**

Bans, AP (ANC)

**Absent**

Xego, M (EFF)

**Departmental official in attendance**

Dr. M, Moodley, Director: Health Intelligence, Strategy Cluster, Department of Health

**1. Opening and welcome**

The Chairperson opened the meeting and allowed for brief introductions.

**2. Briefing by the Department of Health on the progression of the COVID-19 pandemic and the progress of the vaccine roll-out in the province**

Dr. Moodley proceeded to brief the Committee on the COVID-19 surveillance update. He indicated that the World Health Organization estimates that the excess mortality from COVID-19 from 1st January 2020 to 31st January 2022 worldwide is estimated to be 14.9 million, meaning that about 15 million people are estimated to have died from COVID-19 worldwide.

He reported that in August 2022, the provincial overview for COVID-19 illustrates that in the Western Cape, the number of daily new cases has decreased since last week with an average of 38 percent new

diagnoses per day. The Proportion Positive by Date and Sector provincial only has decreased to approximately 9 percent. The number of new admissions has decreased to 3 admissions per day, and absolute numbers of deaths remain relatively low at an average of 1 death per day. In terms of rural resurgence overview, overall, there is a decrease of approximately 24 percent in cases over the past week as of 3 August 2022. There are very few new cases daily in rural areas and the reproductive number for cases is currently approximately 0.8 for the province overall and was declining. Furthermore, it was reported that excess deaths have decreased nationally and are tracking within predicted limits and small increase in excess deaths in the Western Cape, but still tracking within the predicted limits.

### **3. Vaccine inputs**

The Committee was informed that the COVID-19 vaccine achievement in the province as of 3 August 2022 was a total of 5 568 210 vaccines administered, 2 999 379 individuals vaccinated, and 52.51 percent of 18 years and older were fully vaccinated. In addition, 72.66 percent of 60 years and older were fully vaccinated, 63.28 percent between the ages of 50-59 were fully vaccinated, 54.79 percent between the ages of 35-49 years were fully vaccinated, and 40.16 percent between the ages of 18-34 years were fully vaccinated, and 8.22 percent in the province between the ages 12-17 years were fully vaccinated. Furthermore, 5 79 804 COVID-19 booster doses have been administered in the Western Cape.

Dr. Moodley reported that the province has achieved the target of 70 percent for the vaccination status of over 60 years' full primary vaccination series. The Department needs to focus on 50-69 years to achieve 70 percent coverage. Concentration efforts are required to increase uptake amongst younger age groups, especially, 18-34 years and 12-17 years. It was reported that in the Western Cape, the total vaccinations administered per week declined since March-April 2022. A total of 5479 vaccines were administered during the week of 25-31 July 2022.

The Department's vaccine rollout strategy includes the integration of vaccination into routine care, offering vaccination at every opportunity and point of contact with services, and move focus to younger age bands through strategic outreaches and roll out of school-based vaccination. In addition, rationalise the number of sites for cost-effectiveness measures, whilst ensuring continued access, geographic mapping of vaccine coverage to inform targeted outreach utilizing mobile services, partner support and collaboration, including private sector sites, and demand creation and communication strategies.

It was reported that 5.5 million vaccinations were administered in the province, reaching just short of 3 million individuals. Target achieved for reaching the most vulnerable age group, 72 percent of 60 years and older completed full primary series vaccination. 72 percent integration into routine care at primary health care facilities; Innovation dashboards and geo-spatial mapping to inform targeted efforts at the community level; good impactful partnerships, and ongoing communication campaigns with a shift in focus to encourage vaccination amongst younger age groups. The Committee was informed that 72 percent of COVID-19 vaccination has been integrated into routine care in the province. Dr. Moodley reported that 54 percent of the population in the Western Cape has been registered for the COVID-19 vaccination and the province has 317 vaccination sites.

The Department reported that there was a consistent drop in uptake of primary series and booster vaccinations; COVID-19 fatigue, there was low interest in the uptake of vaccination likely because of low levels of infections, mild disease, and regulations being repealed. In addition, there was a low uptake amongst younger age cohorts, possibly as a result of lower risk perception, and lower than expected uptake of booster doses across all age cohorts.

Dr. Moodley informed the Committee that every effort is made to achieve the national target of 70 percent partial primary vaccine coverage across all age bands by December 2022, with the Western Cape currently at 57.68 percent. The uptake of booster doses amongst those eligible remains low, the highest coverage of booster doses is amongst those aged 60 years and older; the province has achieved its target of 70 percent for persons over 60 years and older by completing full primary vaccination series by the end March 2022; ongoing communication campaigns and outreaches emphasize the importance of vaccination; social mobilisation and demand creation is prioritized through the province; the current strategic focus of the Western Cape Government is to integrate COVID-19 vaccination into routine care in order improve cost-effectiveness whilst still maintaining accessibility, and vaccine remains the best form of protection against COVID-19.

#### **4. Request for information**

The Committee requested the Department to submit on or before Wednesday, 31 August 2022 detailed information on the number of people who experienced side-effects of the COVID-19 vaccination in the Western Cape and how the affected persons were assisted by the Department.

#### **5. Resolution**

The Committee resolved to schedule the meeting of 12 August 2022, to be an-person meeting due to the seriousness of the agenda and the interest shown by community health forums.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00.

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**MS WF KAIZER- PHILANDER, MPP**  
**CHAIRPERSON: STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH**  
**WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT**