

MEDIA RELEASE **COVID-19: PSA welcomes vaccine rollout to education sector**

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The Public Servants Association (PSA), which represents thousands of educators and administrative staff in schools nationwide, welcomes the announcement by the Department of Basic Education that educators will be prioritised, for those over 40 and above, to receive the COVID-19 vaccine as early as 9 June 2021.

This news comes after 500 000 doses of the vaccine were secured for the education sector. The PSA, in a medias statement issued on 15 February 2021, called on the Department to engage the Minister of Health to include Educators in the first phase of the vaccination plan after more than 1 000 educators and more than 150 administrative personnel lost their lives because of COVID-19.

Educators are faced with the challenges brought by COVID-19 daily as well as the impact it had on their ability to deliver the curriculum in time. Schools are regarded as super-spreaders, as exposure of it in a classroom can affect several families simultaneous. South African education cannot afford more school days being lost in the calendar year and the PSA encourages educators to make use of the opportunity to get vaccinated.

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