

MEDIA STATEMENT

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EMBARGOED: IMMEDIATE

EASTERN CAPE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH ACHIEVES YET ANOTHER COVID-19 MILESTONE

BHISHO – The Eastern Cape Department of Health has achieved yet another COVID-19 milestone as more than 2-million doses of the vaccines have been administered.

As of 22 September 2021, the province administered 2,016,801 vaccines. The number of people vaccinated has increased to 1,427,033 with a total of 1,048,830 people fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

This bodes well for the province's efforts of vaccinating 4,5-million people by April 2022.

The 2-million milestone comes after the Home of Legends recently achieved the milestone of fully vaccinating 1-million people this month.

Health MEC Nomakhosazana Meth welcomed the 2-million milestone.

"This milestone means that our campaigns aimed at scaling up the vaccination programme are paying off. At this current rate, we are confident that we will have at least 2-million fully vaccinated people by the end of the year. That will be the best Christmas that we could ever ask for as a province.

"We urge everyone aged 18 years and older to come forward and get the lifesaving jab, especially men because there is vaccine hesitancy from them.

"We are working hard to ensure that we target more people by taking the vaccine directly to them through our pop-up vaccine sites which are easily accessible," the MEC said.

To ramp up the vaccination programme, the Eastern Cape has more than 1,200 vaccine sites. This weekend, there will be pop-up vaccination sites at the North End Stadium and Bunkers Hill Fields in East London aimed at taking the jab to sport players and fans.

The Old Cecilia Makiwane Hospital in Mdantsane will also be used as a vaccination site at the end of the month.

The MEC said while the province has targeted to achieve herd immunity by the end of March next year, achieving it sooner was possible.

"We are administering 26,000 vaccines a day. The sooner we vaccinate as many people as possible, the better we will be able to go back to some sort of normal like enjoying sport games at stadiums because South Africans are mad about their sport.

"We can and we will beat this virus but a crucial step towards that is to ensure that we vaccinate our people by their thousands as we have been doing since February," the MEC said.

We will continue working hard to ensure everyone eligible to get the vaccine rolls up their sleeves and get the jab.

Issued by the eastern Cape Department of Health.

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