

Health

Digital Press Conference

Update on COVID-19 and Vaccination Roll-out

Dr K Cloete

6 January 2022

Overview

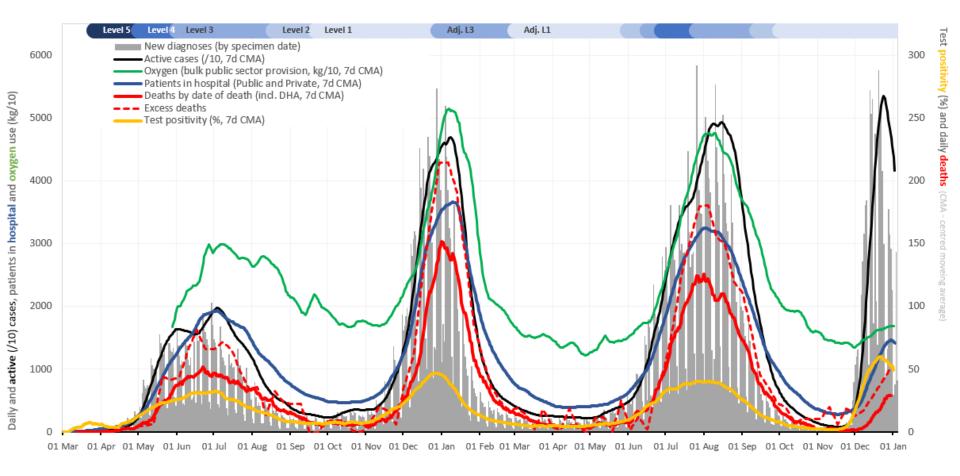
- 1. COVID Surveillance Update
- 2. COVID-19 fourth wave response
- 3. Vaccine Implementation update
- 4. Key messages
- 5. Conclusions



COVID Surveillance Update



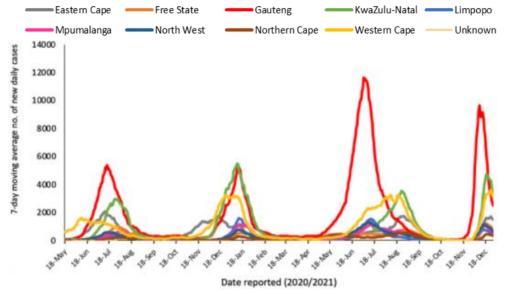
Integrated testing, case, hospitalisation and mortality trends

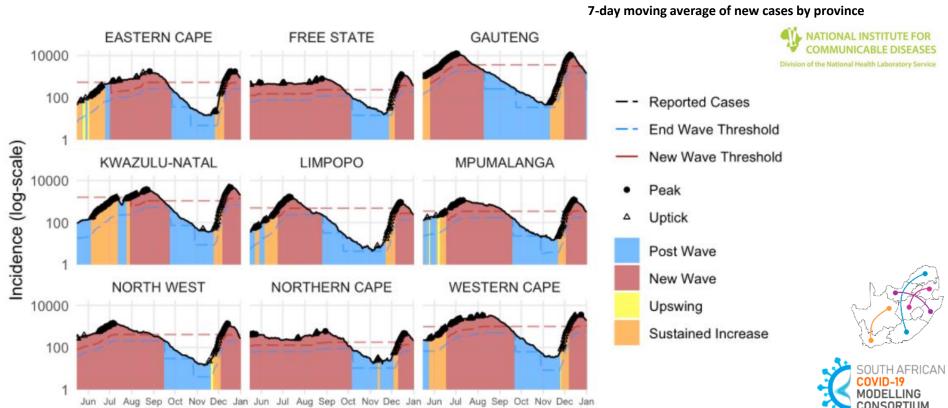




National trends

- Steep decline in cases in Gauteng continue
- Smaller decrease in incident cases in all other provinces
- Gauteng has met the end of wave threshold, all other provinces remain in 4th wave





Provincial Resurgence Overview WC Department of Health No. of Cases, 7 Day Moving Average and 14 Day Moving Average by Date and Sector Last updated: 1/6/2022 5:04:04 AM Sector Private/Other Public Unknown — 7 Day Moving Average — 14 Day Moving Average Select District, Subdistrict: Cape Winelands Central Karoo ↓46% in last wk Date of Diagnosis/Admission City of Cape Town (25 Dec 2021 – 1 Jan 2022) Eastern 1/3/2022 Khayelitsha Klipfontein Mitchells Plain Date of Death Northern Southern 1/1/2022 11/27/2021 Tygerberg Western ✓ □ Garden Route Overbera ∨ □ West Coast Nov 28 Date Proportion Positive and Overall Positivity by Date No. of New Admissions and 7 Day MA by Date No. of Deaths and 7 Day MA by Date and Sector and Sector (*Provincial Only) and Sector Sector Private/Other Public - 7 Day MA Sector Private/Other Public — Overall Positivity Sector Private Public - 7 Day MA $\sqrt{3}\%$ in last wk 个47% in last wk (25 Dec 2021 -(25 Dec 2021 -1 Jan 2022) 1 Jan 2022)

Provincial Overview

Dec 19

Dec 05

20%

Jan 02

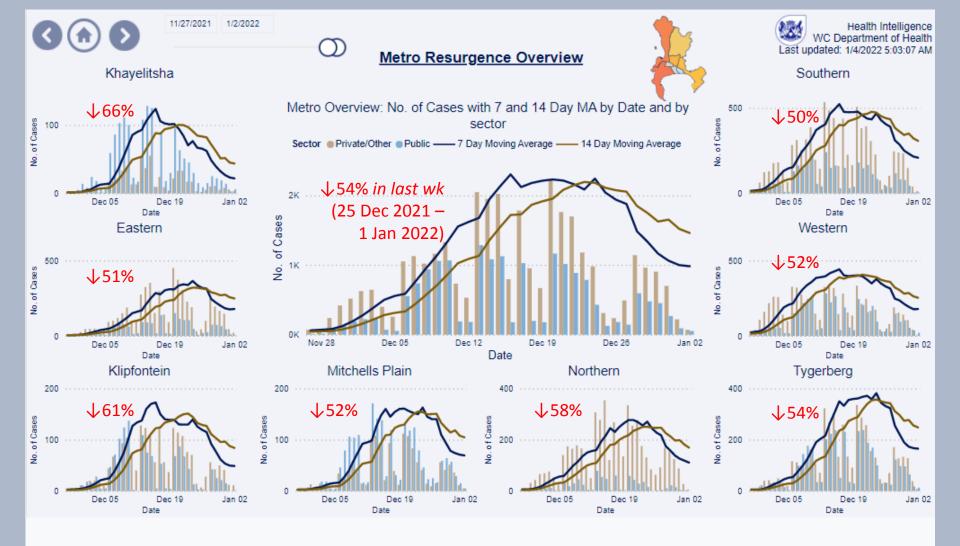
We are starting to see **decreases** in the number of daily new cases with on average **2022 new diagnoses per day.** This decrease may be due to the recent public holidays which would affect testing patterns and make it difficult to compare week-on-week averages

100

Health Intelligence

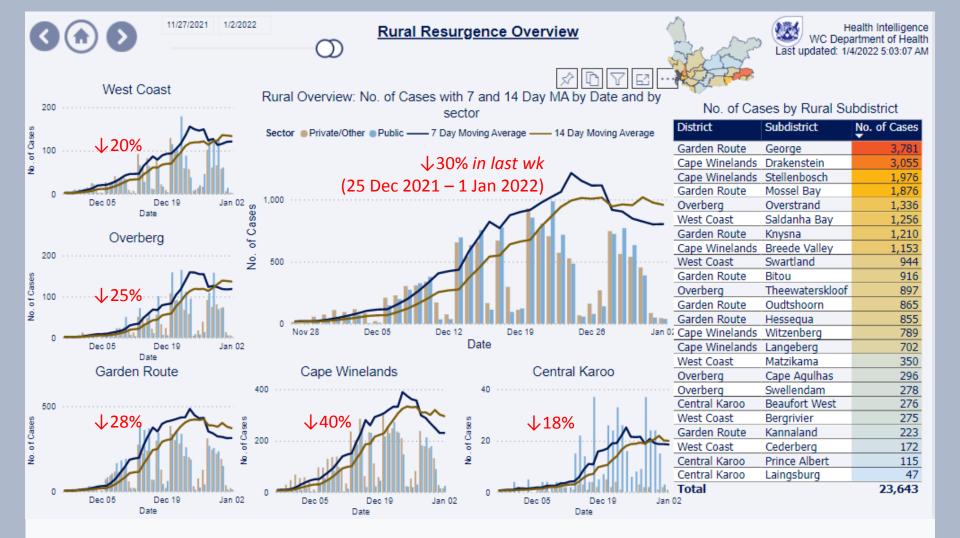
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- The proportion positive has decreased to an average of 52%. New admissions appear to have plateaued with 225 admissions per day.
- Deaths have been increasing since mid-Dec with large percent increases but from low base. Currently on average 29 deaths per day, 47% increase in last week.
- The Province will have reached the end of the wave once we have ~600 new cases per day based on the 7-day moving average of cases



Metro Overview

Cases in the Metro are decreasing across all subdistricts



Rural Overview

• The rural districts are also seeing decreases in week-on-week cases, but smaller decreases than the metro.

Reproduction number

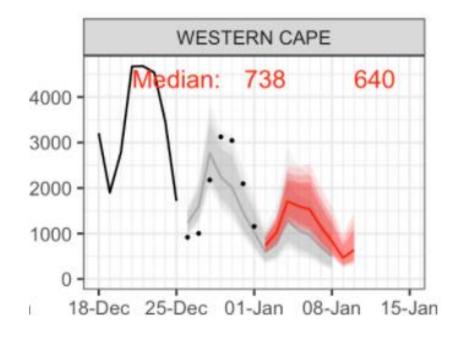


Reproduction number remains below one (based on cases) (noting more irregular data and more public holidays this time of year)



Short term predictions from SACMC – new cases

- Actual case numbers fit fairly well with the prediction line for the past week.
- Expecting fewer cases in the coming week



Black line:

previous cases

Grey line:

forecast for this week

Dots:

actual cases

Red line:

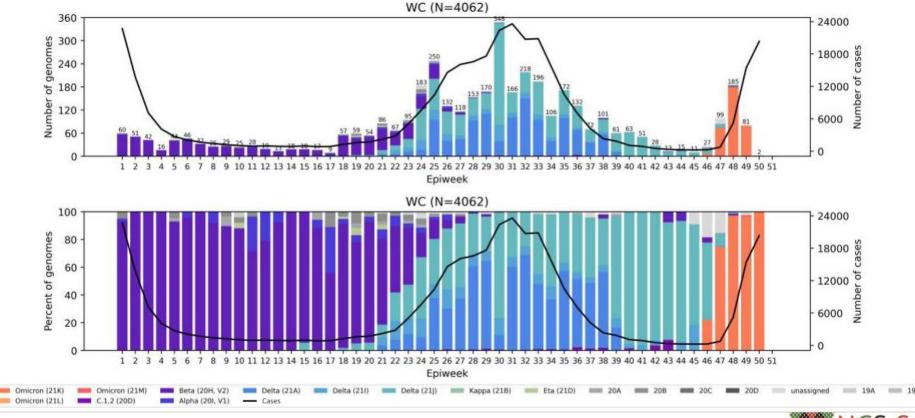
Prediction for next week





Update on omicron in Western Cape

Western Cape Province, 2021, n =4058



Nearly all cases in December in Western Cape are omicron.

















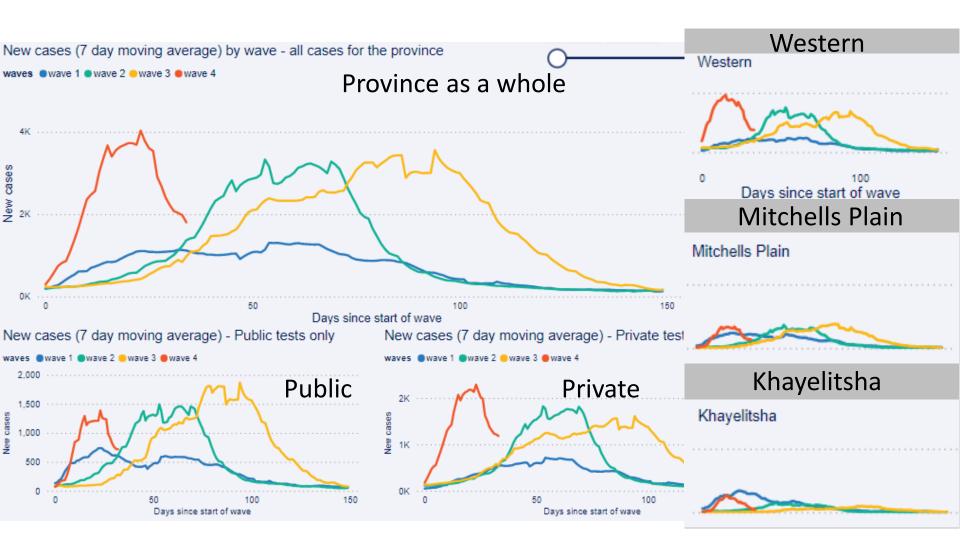






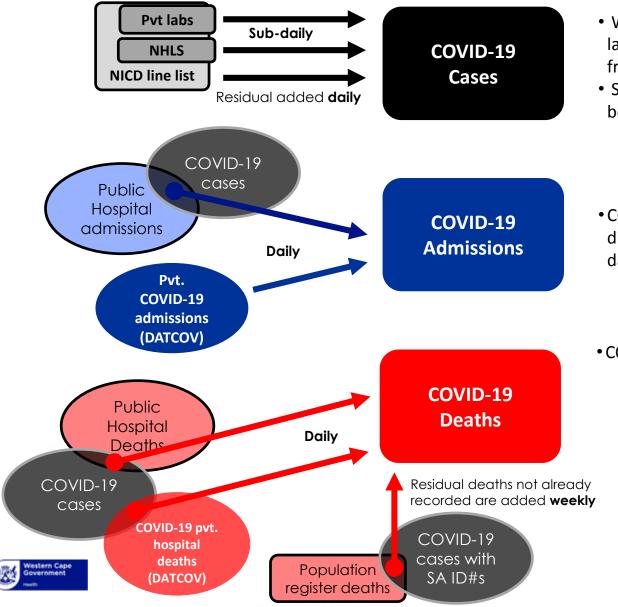


Comparison of number of cases with previous waves



- Early steep increase in cases with private sector > public sector.
- Western subdistrict surpassed peak daily cases in previous waves; currently declining.
- MP and Khayelitsha (high seroprevalence from previous waves) tracking along first wave curve and now also declining

Western Cape COVID-19 Clinical Event Reporting



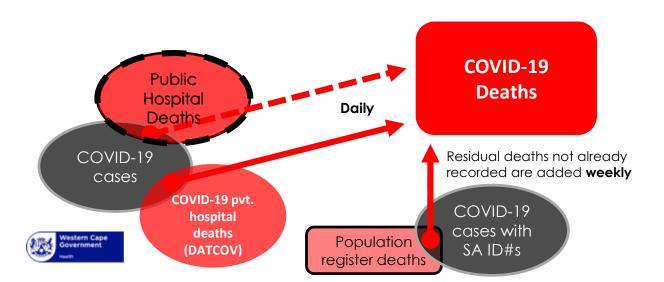
- WC receives data directly from laboratories and consolidated data from the NICD
- Slight differences in de-duplication between NICD and WC

 COVID-19 admissions determined by diagnoses within 21 days of admission date

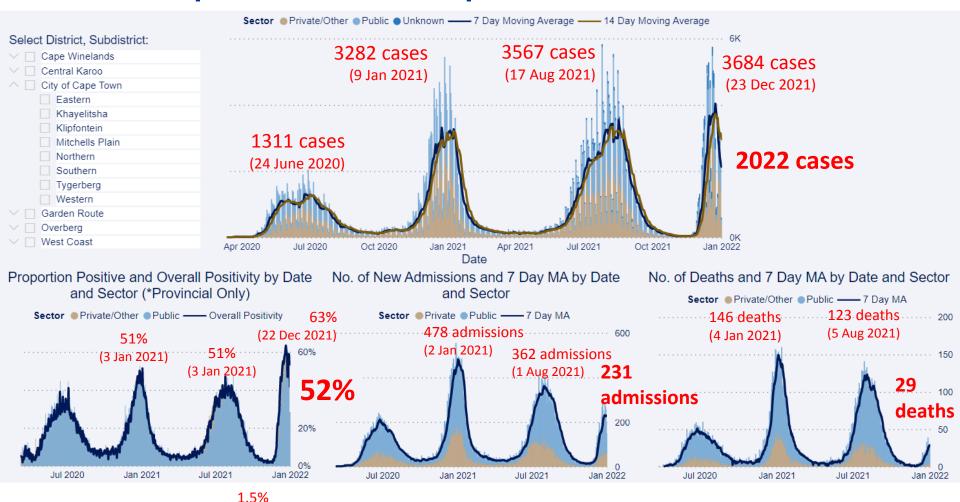
- COVID-19 deaths determined by:
 - Absence of non-natural cause of death on population register
 - Death within 28 days of diagnosis, or within 14 days of discharge following a COVID-19 admission

Current once-off update to 4th-wave COVID-19 deaths

- Administrative/technical delays in incorporation of public sector in-patient deaths
- Two-week delay in incorporation of population-register deaths concurrent with wave peak, due to various public holidays
- A large number of deaths will be reported today, but these are distributed by date of death over the preceding weeks, and the pattern of increase (synchronous with cases but relatively lower than previous waves) is consistent with prior reports



Nadir and peak values compared to now



(5 Nov 2021) •

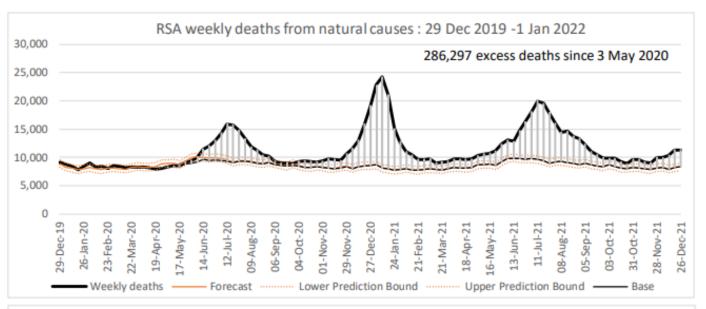
Case numbers and test positivity in this wave have exceeded previous waves

Peak values vs now

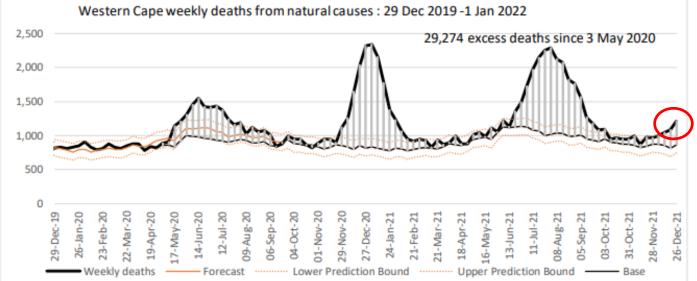
- Admissions currently at ~64% of the third wave admissions peak
- Deaths have increased in last 2 weeks currently at 24% of 3rd wave peak
- The Province will have reached the end of the wave once we have ~600 new cases per day based on the 7-day moving average of cases



MRC excess deaths



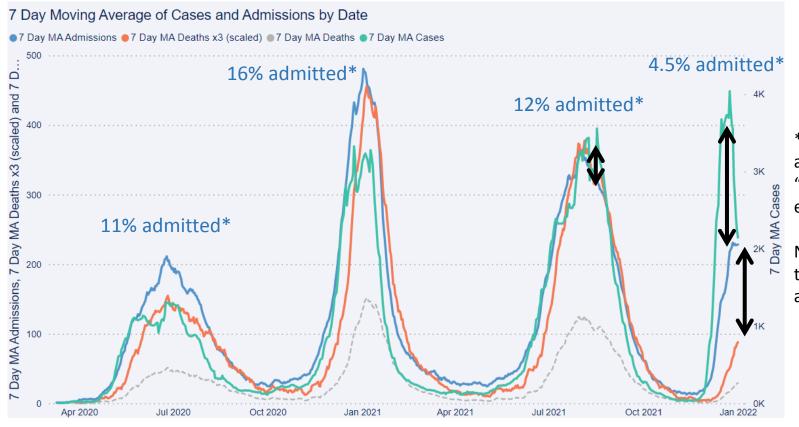
 Deaths from natural causes for the country increased and remain above upper predicted bound



 In the Western Cape, deaths are above the predicted bounds for last 2 weeks.



Are we seeing fewer admissions and deaths? Comparison of cases, admissions & deaths across the waves

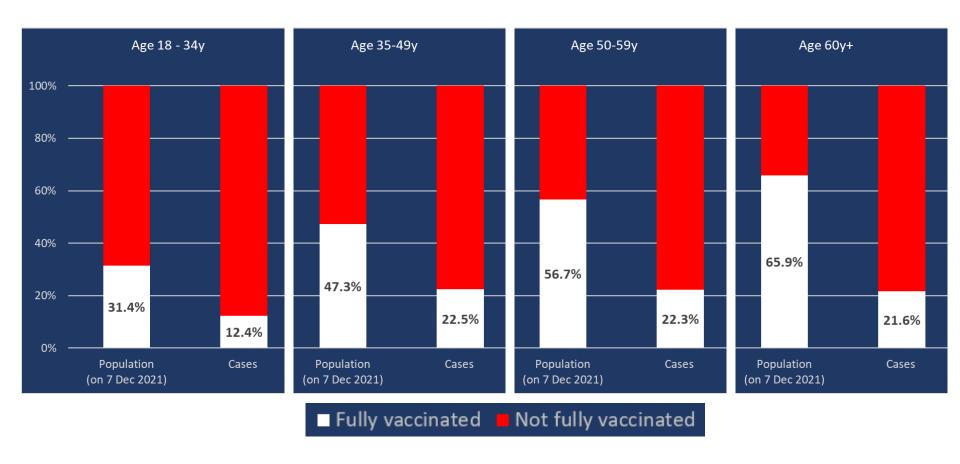


*Proportion admitted during the "peak" period of each wave

Note deaths scaled to be on same axis as admissions

- Continue to see widening gap between cases & admissions & deaths started in wave 3 but greater in wave 4.
- New admissions currently at ~64% of the third wave admissions peak; current admissions at 44% of 3rd wave peak admissions. Deaths at 24% of 3rd wave peak.
- Immunity from undiagnosed prior infection likely also providing strong protection vs. severe disease.
- Emerging evidence that omicron may be less severe than delta even after fully considering protection from vaccination & prior infection but reduction in severity unclear & may have similar severity to ancestral strains.

Proportion vaccinated among population & cases by age group



Raw data shows that across all age groups there is a clear reduction in the % vaccinated between the population and cases indicating protection of vaccination against infection.



Number fully vaccinated among COVID-19 deaths by age group

Deaths among those diagnosed 15 November to 11 December 2021

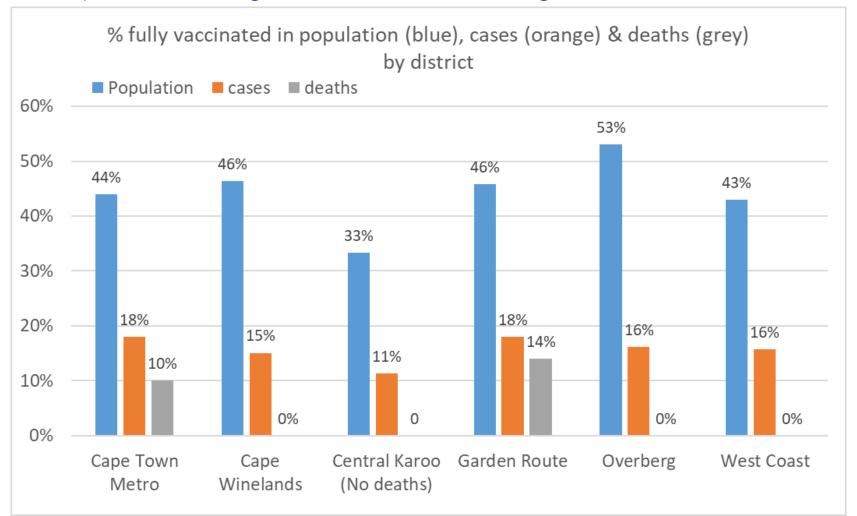






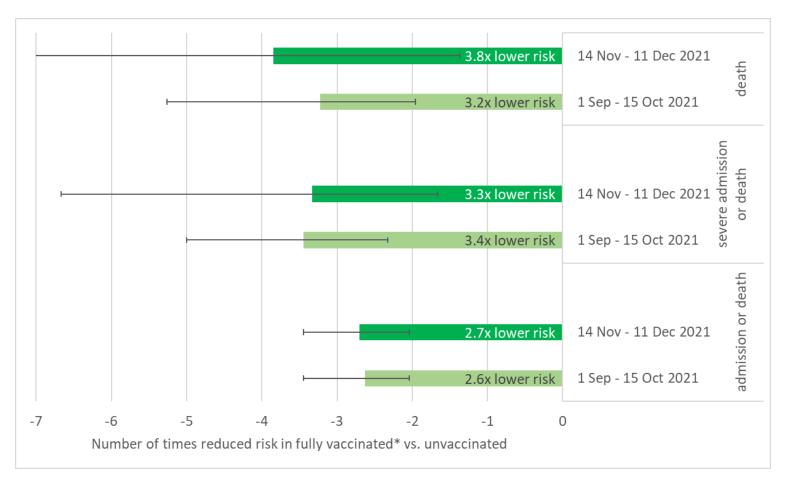
Proportion fully vaccinated among population, cases & deaths by district

Population coverage at 7 Dec 2021; Cases diagnosed 14 Nov-11 Dec 2021





Protection of vaccines against severe COVID-19 in the Delta (Sep/Oct) and Omicron (15 Nov onwards) periods



Among COVID-19 cases, full vaccination (vs. none) provides similar strong protection in omicron period (dark green) vs. earlier (light green) against all severe COVID-19 outcomes: Death: 3.8x lower risk, Severe admission or death: 3.3x lower risk, Admission: 2.7x lower risk



Summary of evidence about omicron to date

- 1. Clear evidence that **re-infections occur with omicron**.
- **2. Proportion of cases with severe disease** to date **has been lower** this is most likely due to:
 - Still mainly younger people infected at lower risk of severe disease
 - Strong protection vs. severe disease from prior infection and vaccination
- 3. Growing evidence that **omicron may cause slightly less severe disease than delta in unvaccinated people without prior infection**. While the proportion with severe disease is smaller as most people have some protection from vaccination/ prior infection or both, **we still have some cases with severe disease**.
- 4. To date, vaccines appear to still provide strong protection against severe disease from omicron and remain our best defence.
- 5. We continue to follow emerging evidence closely.



COVID-19 fourth wave response



Triggered response for the 4th wave

Agile and titrated response with multiple actions in response to predefined triggers

		Τ
Indicator	Example of Resurgence Metric	Recommended action
First warning: ↑ health service demand in 14-21d	Large \uparrow daily cases (\uparrow for \geq 1 week of \geq 20%) Overall test positivity >7% for \geq 1 week O ₂ >50% \uparrow in pre-COVID-19 O ₂ use for \geq 3d	 Public messaging: ↑ cases & stricter NPI adherence. Publish 2nd warning indicators & restriction expectations if breached. Notify of resource mobilization for a substantial surge. ↑ vaccination & boosters according to national guidelines. Viral sequencing. No restrictions when 1st warning indicator met.
Second warning: 个 health service demand in 7-14d	10% week on week ↑ in 7dma of new admissions (for ≥7d & >7/million population (i.e. 50) new daily admissions) >75% ↑ in pre-COVID-19 O ₂ use for ≥3d	 As above PLUS Publish 3rd warning indicators & restriction expectations if breached. Mobilize resources to support a substantial surge within 7 to 14 days. Consider limiting testing not absolutely necessary. Consider restrictions
Third warning: ↑ health service demand in 2-7d	>50% high care, ICU & HFNO ₂ COVID-19 beds occupied O ₂ >100% ↑ in pre-COVID-19 O ₂ use for ≥3d	 As above PLUS Publish potential ↑ of restrictions if systems become overwhelmed. Limit testing not absolutely necessary. Mobilize resources to support substantial surge within 2d. Consider further restrictions
Health service capacity threatened	>2800 current COVID-19 inpatients >80% high care, ICU & HFNO ₂ COVID-19 beds occupied >200% ↑ in pre-COVID-19 O ₂ use for ≥3d	As above PLUSMobilize resources to maximum capacity.Further restrictions

Acute public service platform – current picture

- 1. The Metro hospitals have an average BOR of 83%; George drainage area hospitals at 64%; Paarl drainage area hospitals at 67% & Worcester drainage area hospitals at 76%. Critical care BOR for designated COVID beds for the province at 54%.
- 2. COVID & PUI cases currently make up 17% of all available acute general hospital capacity in both Metro and Rural Regional Hospital drainage areas.
- 3. COVID inter-mediate care the Brackengate Hospital of Hope currently has 131 patients, Mitchell Plain Hospital of Hope has 37 patients. Sonstraal currently has 15 patients; Freesia & Ward 99 have 0 patients; Harry Comay has 0 patients.
- 4. The Metro mass fatality centre remains closed as deaths remain low.



Daily Operational Bed Status



WCDOH: Daily Operational Bed Status Dashboard as at 05/01/2022

						BUR % for	BUR % for
		Filled				Designated	Designated
Drainage Area						Covid	Covid
	Operational	Beds		COVID	% Covid	Beds(General	Beds(Critical
	Beds		BUR %	BUR %	patients	Wards)	Care)
Cape Town /Metro	5,065	4,205	83%	41%	16%	40%	66%
George	900	575	64%	35%	19%	35%	50%
Paarl	982	659	67%	43%	19%	44%	26%
Worcester	741	563	76%	56%	25%	58%	8%
SubTotal WCDOH	7,688	6,002	78%	42%	17%	41%	54%

Excluding Specialised Hospitals e.g. Mowbray Maternity, Psychiatric Hospitals, etc



COVID-19 Hospitalization Update

Jun 2021

Jul 2021

Aug 2021

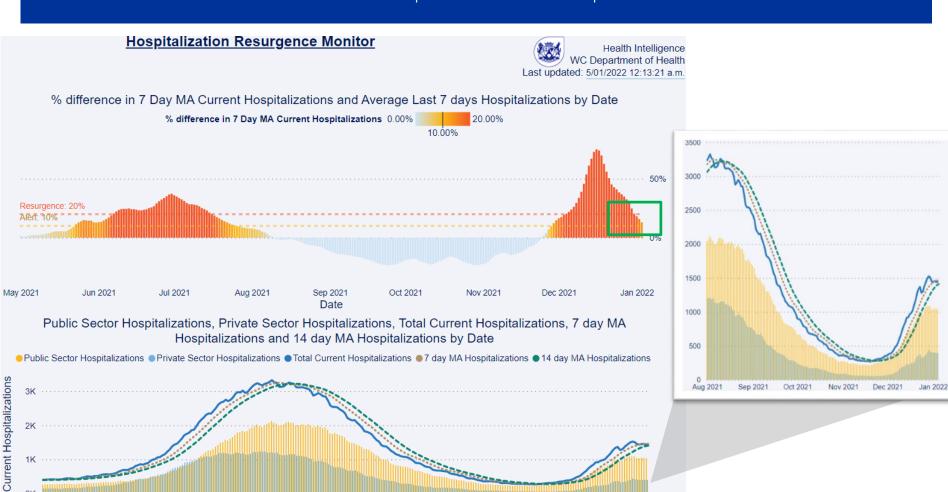
Sep 2021

Date

Oct 2021

In terms of current hospitalizations, the week-on-week increases have dropped below 20%. This is a positive sign and likely reflects a turning point that will be reached in terms of hospitalizations over the next week.

Current COVID-19 hospitalizations (both incidental and COVID-19 related) amount to a 7 Day Moving Average of 1464 current hospitalizations across the platform.



Nov 2021

Dec 2021

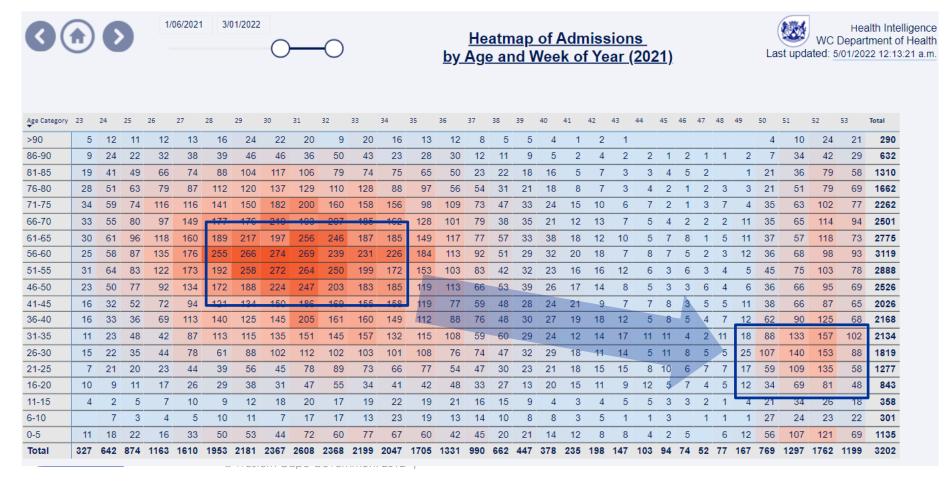
Jan 2022

Current Age-based COVID-19 Hospitalization burden

We continue to see increases in admissions across all age bands, with a higher proportion in younger adults.

Previous waves saw higher hospitalizations in the elderly cohorts.

The younger cohort have historically been seen to experience a milder form of the disease. This shift in proportion of admissions in the younger cohorts is likely, among other reasons, due to the proportion of unvaccinated individuals in this population vs the higher vaccine uptake in the elderly populations.



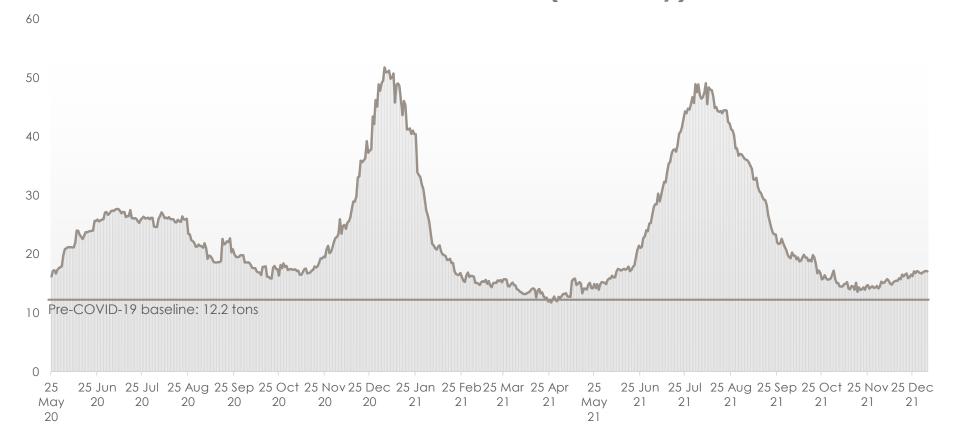
Public Sector Bulk Oxygen Consumption

The total daily bulk oxygen for the province is currently at 29.27 tons.

This total is divided between the public sector (17.03 tons) and the private sector (12.24 tons) currently. Based on the public sector usage we are currently at a 39.7% increase in oxygen use relative to our pre-COVID baseline (i.e. still <50% increase). If we compare this to the 3rd wave peak on the 8th August 2021 the public sector was using 49.07 tons per day, or 402% increase relative to our pre-COVID-19 baseline.

This decreased need despite a high case burden is reassuring.

Public Sector O2 use (tons/day)



COVID-19 Hospitalization Triggered Response Metrics

Using the triggered COVID-19 metrics to titrate beds accordingly. According to these metrics (especially oxygen use), we have not yet breached the 1st warning indicator level. **Bed Trigger Current Level** Indicator **Bed Response** >10% of beds occupied Expand acute hospital general COVID-19 beds by 30% of maximum wave 2 peak COVID-19 Bed beds (to 545 beds) by decreasing non-urgent OPD visits. warning by COVID-19 patients Utilization %: indicator 40% Expand acute hospital critical care COVID-19 beds to 30% of maximum wave peak >50% increase in prebeds (to 37 beds) by decreasing elective surgery to 80% of usual capacity. COVID-19 baseline of Oxygen Consumption: oxygen consumption by Expand intermediate beds to 50% capacity (minimum 250 beds). hospitals (>18.3 tons per 39.7% (i.e. <50% day) for ≥3 days Ensure equitable spread of patients across hospitals: temporarily shift referral paths increase relative to diverting acutely ill patients away from hospitals with >10% of COVID-19 patients to pre-COVID baseline) those with <10% COVID-19 patients. 2nd >20% of beds occupied Expand acute hospital general COVID-19 beds to 60% of maximum wave 2 peak COVID-19 Bed beds (to 1090 beds) by further decreasing non-urgent OPD visits. by COVID-19 patients warning Utilization %: indicator 40% Expand acute hospital critical care COVID-19 beds to 60% of maximum wave 2 >75% increase in prepeak beds (to 75 beds) by decreasing elective surgery to 70% of usual capacity. COVID-19 baseline of Oxygen Consumption: oxygen consumption by Expand intermediate beds to 100% capacity (500 beds). hospitals (>21.4 tons per <75% day) for ≥3 days Ensure equitable spread of patients across hospitals: temporarily shift referral paths diverting acutely ill patients away from hospitals with >10% of COVID-19 patients to those with <10% COVID-19 patients. 3rd >20% week-on-week Expand acute hospital general COVID-19 beds to 100% of maximum wave 2 peak % week on week in beds (to 1820 beds) by strictly decreasing non-urgent OPD visits. warning increase in 7 day moving current admissions: indicator average of current >20% Expand acute hospital critical care COVID-19 beds to 60% of maximum wave 2 admissions. peak beds (to 125 beds) by decreasing elective surgery to 60% of usual capacity. % Bed Occupancy in critical care beds: >50% bed occupancy of Increase intermediate beds to >100% of capacity (>500 beds) if possible. available critical care & HFNO COVID-19 beds. COVID-19 Bed Utilization %: COVID-19 patients 40% occupy >30% of beds Health A sustained increase of probable/confirmed cases needing hospital admission (as per first, second and third Absolute COVID-19 warning indicator) service hospitalizations: Absolute current COVID-19 hospitalization >2800; BUR % for designated COVID-19 general beds >70% in a close to 1464 district/province; BUR % for designated COVID-19 critical care & HFNO beds >80%

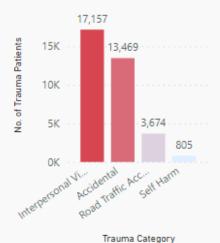
overwhel

med

Continue maximal expansion COVID-19 beds

Overview of changes in recent trauma presentations (01 Oct 2021-02 Jan 2022)

No. of Trauma Patients by Trauma Category



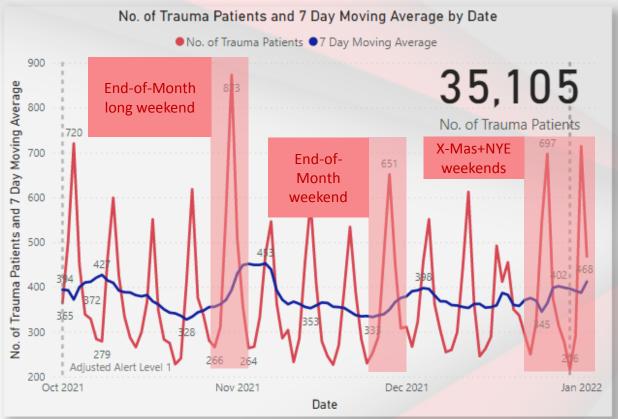
Current COVID-19 Regulation

Date	Lockdown		
Period	Level	Regulation	Curfew
1 Oct -29			
Dec	Adjusted	No	00:00-
2021	Level 1	restrictions	04:00
. 20 D	0 45	NI -	NI -
>30 Dec	Adjusted	No	No
2021	Level 1	restrictions	curfew

WC Sentinel Trauma Report

Source: HECIS

This report shows a sample of 20 hospital emergency centres and their trauma patient numbers over time

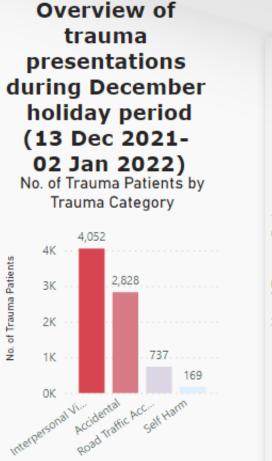


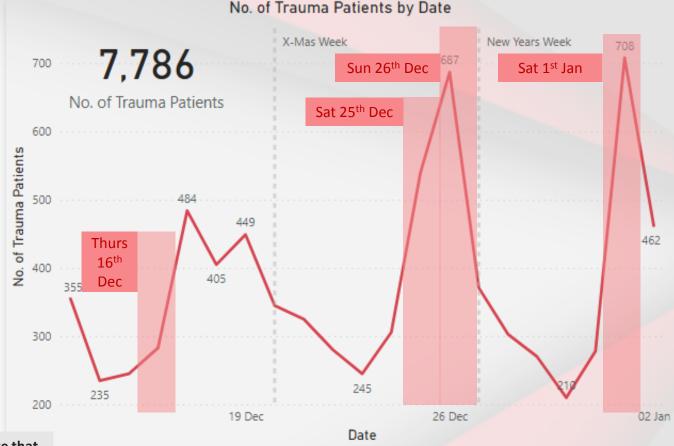
Over the last 3 months (since the start of Alert Level 1), we have seen a total of 35,105 trauma cases at 20 of our Emergency Centres.

The recent lift in 00:00-04:00 curfew occurred on the 30 Dec. Due to this late institution of regulatory change the impact of worsening alcohol-related trauma incidents were likely blunted due to the short notice period. None the less, NYE still saw a significant and sustained burden of trauma presentations to Emergency Centres relative to the previous Christmas weekend.

WC Sentinel Trauma Report

This report shows a sample of 20 hospital emergency centres and their trauma patient numbers over time





When looking at the last 3 weeks, we note that all weeks had public holidays (Thurs 16th Dec, Sat 25th Dec, Sun 26th Dec and Sat 1st Jan).

Week on week, we saw total trauma burden increase during Christmas week and sustain into New Years at ~6.5%-11.1%.

During the same period weekend trauma burden significantly increased by 39.1%-43.7%

1,227 -4.6% 1,170

Weekend Trauma Burden

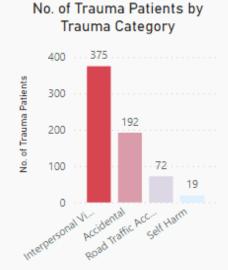
Weekend Trauma Burden

Weekend Trauma Burden

13-12-2021 to 19-12-2021 20-12-2021 to 26-12-2021

27-12-2021 to 02-01-2022

Overview of changes in recent trauma admissions (13 Dec 2021-02 Jan 2022)



Trauma presentations spill over into in-hospital beds with >600 (across the 20 facilities) being occupied by trauma admissions over the last 3 weeks.

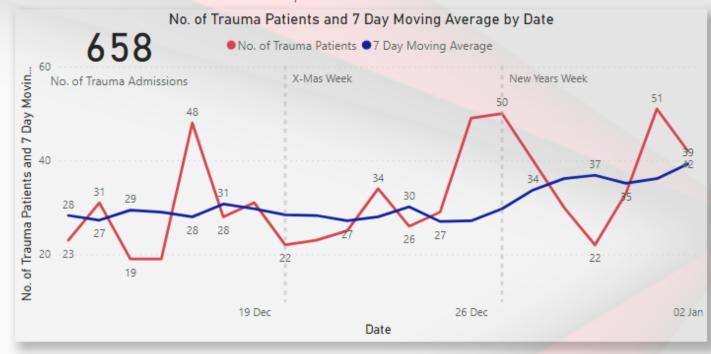
Trauma Category

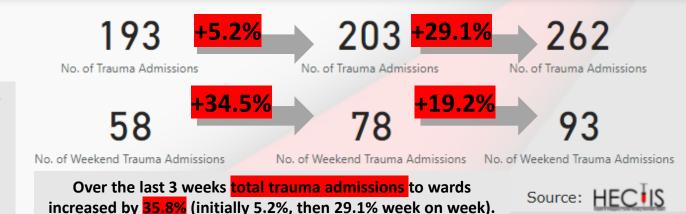
Christmas and New Year's weeks and weekends saw significant increases in trauma admissions as well.



Source: HEC IS

This report shows a sample of 20 hospital emergency centres and their trauma patient admissions over time





Over the same period, weekend trauma admissions increased

by 60.3% (initially 34.5% then 19.2% week on week).



Cumulative Infections

14,869

DEPARTMENTAL OVERVIEW OF ONLY COVID-19 CASES AND DEATHS IN HEALTHCARE WORKERS (HCWs)



13.533 % Recovered 91.01%



195 % Died 1.31% Totals as at 05 Jan 2022

Active Cases

1141 % Active

7.67%

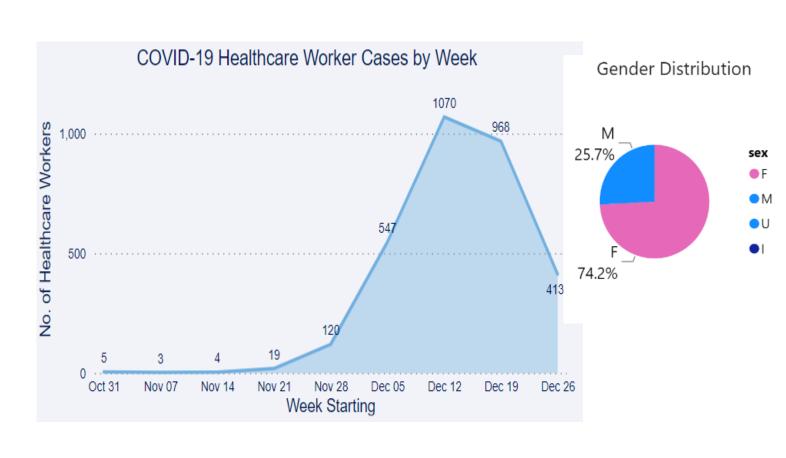


0,550

Radiographers 185

Pharmacists 177

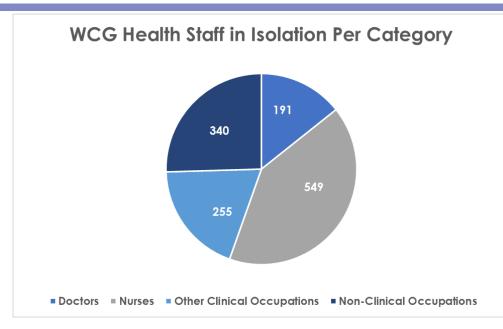
Other categories 6,501

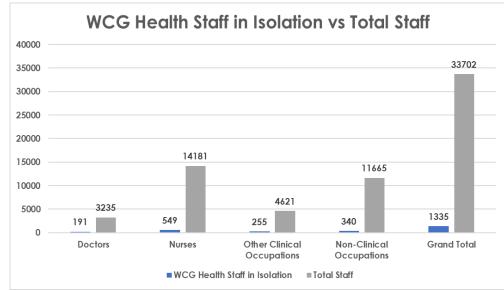


WCGH Staff in Isolation: Implications for Health Services

The number of staff in Isolation: 1 335 (as at 3 January 2022)

- Clinical Staff in isolation = 995 (balance of 340 being non-patient facing staff)
- Still experiencing constraint to deliver health services, however staff are returning back to duty as they come out of isolation.
- The number of staff in isolation follow on from the week prior – caution to not draw direct correlations between active cases and the total number in isolation. The situation is expected to improve significantly this week and next.
- Awaiting the revised NDoH quarantine and isolation guidelines.







Vaccine Implementation update



Vaccinations as at 05 January 2022

National adults fully vaccinated
15 702 030
39.45% of adult pop.

WC adults fully vaccinated
2 320 312
46.62% of adult pop.

Vaccinations in the Western Cape to date 4 483 167



Vaccinations in the Western Cape: preceding week (27 December to 02 January)

24 496



Vaccinations in the Western Cape- last 24 hours

6 331



[Disclaimer: Data displayed in these graphs and tables only contains records captured on EVDS. Totals will be adjusted as back-capturing and data validation is done.]



Registration breakdown

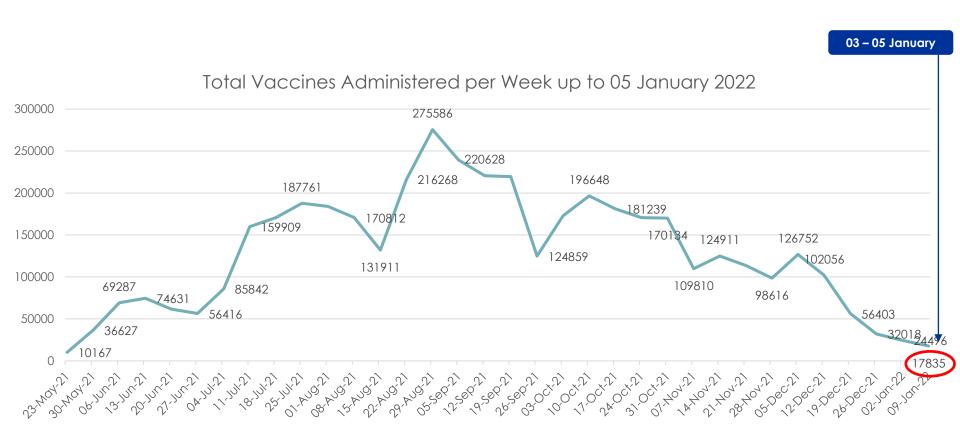
As on 05 January 2022, a total of **2798 558** people in the Western Cape have registered on EVDS, equalling **49.86%** of the total eligible population (>12 years).

Age Band	Total Registrations	% Individuals Registered
12 – 17 Years	127615	19,74%
18 – 35 Years	899950	43,86%
35 – 49 Years	830798	54,94%
50 – 59 Years	412485	60,43%
60 Years +	527710	73,32%

Metro: Sub-district	Proportion >18 years as on 05 January 2022	Rural: District	Proportion >18 years as on 05 January 2022
Eastern	57,08%	Cape Winelands	55,52%
Khayelitsha	35,20%	Central Karoo	43,51%
Klipfontein	52,37%	Garden Route	55,00%
Mitchell's Plain	32,96%	Overberg	63,95%
Northern	56,88%	West Coast	51,96%
Southern	56,83%		
Tygerberg	48,43%		
Western	84,31%		



Vaccines Administered per Week

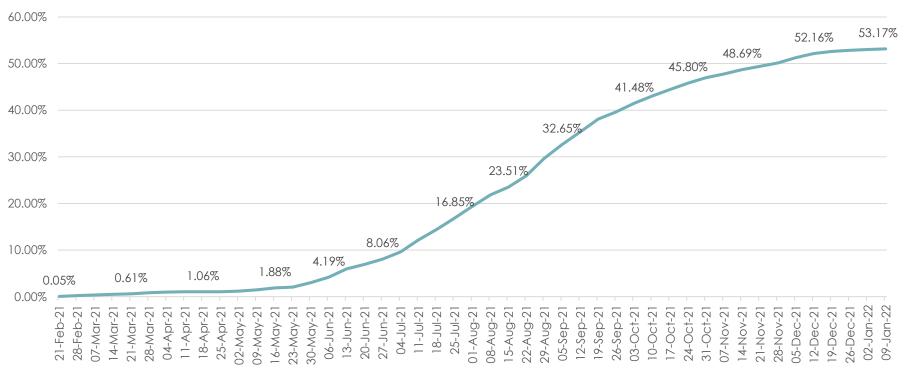




[<u>Disclaimer</u>: Data displayed in these graphs and tables only contains records captured on EVDS. Totals will be adjusted as back-capturing and data validation is done.] *Last data point = 03 - 05 January 2022 (3 days)

Vaccination Coverage (>18 Years) up to 05 January 2022

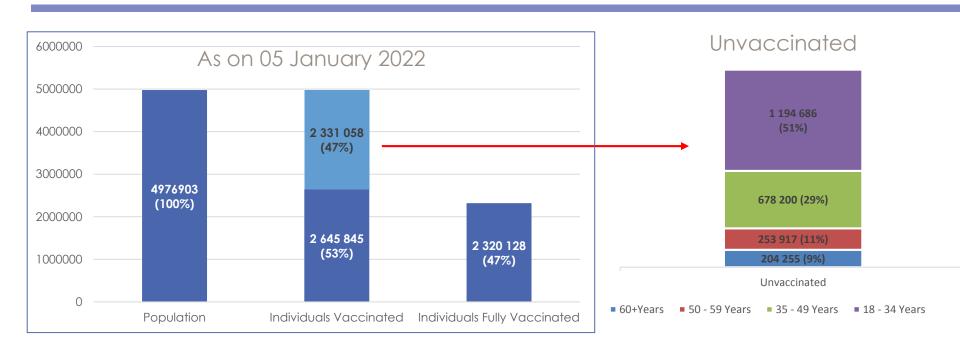






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Current status – vaccinated vs unvaccinated



As on 05 January 2022

Total number of individuals (18 Years and older) vaccinated (at least one dose) = 2 645 845 = 53% of >18s (EVDS National Dashboard on 05 January 2022)

Total number of individuals (18 Years and older) fully vaccinated = 2 320 128 = 47% of >18s (EVDS National Dashboard on 05 January 2022)

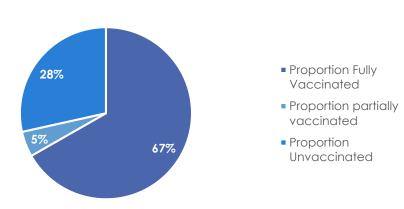
Number of unvaccinated persons aged 18 years and older = 2 331 058

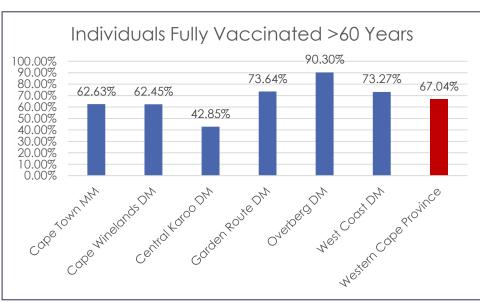
Total number of children (aged 12 – 17 Years) Vaccinated = 111 121 (17,19%)



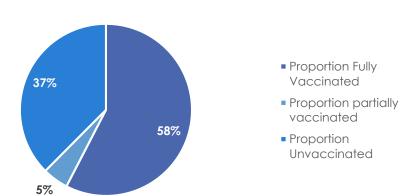
Vaccination coverage: >50 Years

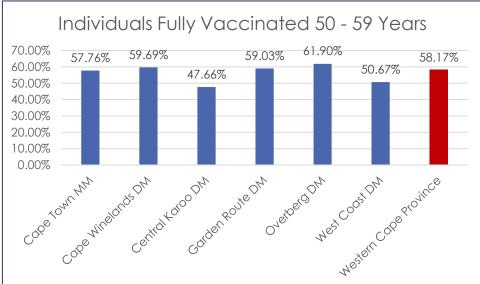
Vaccinations **>60 Years** as on 05 January 2022











Strategic Focus & Intent



Promoting Equity

Increase access to registration and vaccination sites

Community-level interventions

Target identified geographic areas



Renew Demand Creation Efforts

Retain focus on >50 years as the most vulnerable population group

Focus on **booster doses** for those who are eligible

Reinvigorate social mobilization and demand creation efforts

Neutralise misinformation & strengthen pro-vaccine trusted voices



Targeted Approach

Focus on **geographic areas** with low vaccine uptake – informed by available vaccination and registration data.

Intentional shift to maximise reach and efficiencies through **increasing outreach** services and **pop-up** sites.

Rationalise and retain fixed vaccination sites where appropriately placed.

Capacity from decommissioned and/or scaled down fixed sites have been redeployed to increase capacity for mobile services and pop-up sites in community settings.



District teams identify suitable pop-up site locations via **community consultation** and **local knowledge** of the geographic area.

Targeted vaccination activities are supplemented by resources made possible through partnerships (e.g., Solidarity Fund, Old Mutual, etc.)



Provincial Progress to date – against targets

Age in years	Total Population		Proportion <u>Partially Vaccinated</u> (One dose of two-dose regimen received) as on 05 January 2022	Proportion <u>Unvaccinated</u> as on 05 January 2022
60 Years +	723 160	67.04%	4.72%	28.24%
50 – 59 Years	684 149	58.17%	4.71%	37.11%
50 Years +	1 407 309	62.73%	4.72%	32.56%
35 – 49 Years	1 511 813	49.21%	5.93%	44.86%
18 – 34 Years	2 057 781	33.70%	8.25%	58.06%
18 - 49	3 569 594	40.27%	7.27%	52.47%
18 Years +	4 976 903	46.62%	6.54%	46.84%

NB: Target for boosters to be added to revised targets for 2022

• 50+ Years: 85% fully vaccinated

• 18 - 49 Years: **65% at least one dose**

Target (unvaccinated)

Number of Vaccines to be administered

- Administer 66 382 2nd dose vaccines to persons 50+ Years
- Fully vaccinate 247 076 new patients in the >50 Years cohort
- Administer **623 528** vaccines to 18 49 Years



Uptake of Booster Doses and Additional Doses - 05 Jan 2022



Sisonke 2

Healthcare Worker Booster Doses (J&J)

60 275



Immunocompromised

Additional Doses for Immuno-compromised Individuals

3 785

2



General Boosters

J&J = **4 672** Pfizer = **1 825**

(53.65% ≥50 Years)

3

GENERAL BOOSTERS

Cominarty (Pfizer) Vaccine

- Only adults
- 6 months after 2nd dose
- Small numbers of older persons are becoming eligible

Janssen (J&J) Covid Vaccine

- Only adults
- 2 months after initial dose
- Large number of people immediately eligible



Remarks on Vaccine Implementation

- Targets: As a province we continue to work towards ensuring that 85% of persons 50 years are older are fully vaccinated and 65% of those aged 18
 49 years receive at least one vaccine dose. Revised targets for 2022 will include targets for boosters.
- Key beneficiaries: Retain focus on ensuring that the most vulnerable groups are vaccinated (>50yrs and people >18yrs with co-morbidities), and receive boosters.
- Demand creation: There is a urgent need for renewed WoSA social mobilisation and demand generation efforts for unvaccinated and booster doses.
- Rallying call: Every vaccine administered adds to the protection of the public and the health system, as new variants are likely to emerge.



Communications



Stay safe with friends and family – to exit the 4th wave

December 2021

Stay Safe with your family and friends this festive season

We must work together to beat the fourth wave. We can do this by getting vaccinated and keeping up our good habits.



Don't hesitate. Vaccinate.

- Vaccination is our best protection against severe COVID and return to a more normal life.
- COVID vaccines are safe and save lives.
- They may not prevent you from getting COVID
- but they will protect you against severe COVID.

 Everyone 12 years and older can get the vaccine.







Mask up!

- · A well-fitting mask can reduce your chances of getting COVID.
- . If you have COVID, a mask can reduce your chances of spreading it to other people.
- Masks protect you and others it shows you care.



Avoid crowds



Postpone or cancel parties



Limit the size of your gatherings, keep them short and outside.



Keep physical distance from others.



Western Cape call centre: 0860 142 142 www.westerncape.gov.za



Ventilate

Coronavirus spreads through the air when people breathe, talk, cough, sing or shout.





We can also protect ourselves by:

- Keeping gatherings small, short and outdoors.
- Making sure we have as much fresh air as possible indoors.



Open windows and doors to create good airflow.



Meet outside where possible.





What to do if you get symptoms

Assume you have COVID even if you don't test.

- If you are sick, stay at home.
- Try to stay separate from others in your home. If you can't, wear a mask and open doors and windows.





Go to hospital immediately if you develop:

- · Difficulty breathing
- · Chest pain or pressure that won't go away
- Confusion
- · Can't wake up completely



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Simple things to exit the 4th wave











Booster vaccinations available

PFIZER BOOSTER VACCINATIONS NOW AVAILABLE

From 28 December 2021, a Pfizer booster vaccination (third dose) is available at all our vaccination sites.

You are eligible for a booster Pfizer vaccine six months after your second Pfizer vaccine.



Leslie Sylvester, received his Pfizer booster at the Athlone Vaccination Centre of Hope drive-through (Athlone Stadium).

Leslie Sylvester, 67 years old



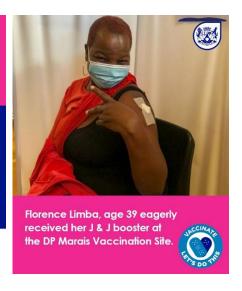


J&J BOOSTER VACCINATIONS NOW AVAILABLE

Everyone who had a J&J vaccine more than two months ago, is now eligible for a second booster (J&J) vaccine.









Conclusions



Concluding remarks

- 1. We are seeing a decline in cases in the 4th wave in the Western Cape, but still have a high number of active cases, driven by the omicron variant. We urge everyone to vaccinate, wear a mask, avoid enclosed spaces and gather outdoors, to contain the spread over the coming days and weeks, until we exit the 4th wave.
- 2. The early evidence on omicron is emerging, indicating lower prevalence of severe cases for hospitalisation and deaths, mainly due to vaccination and previous infections, but we need to await more robust research, to pronounce on Omicron's severity.
- 3. We have activated a tailored step-wise health and societal response and have fully mitigated the impact of the 4th wave, up to this point.
- 4. Our biggest weapon remains vaccination (especially for >50yr olds). We require a massive whole of society effort to continue to generate increased targeted demand for unvaccinated persons and for boosters for vaccinated persons.



Thank you