

The Bishop of False Bay
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My dear Clergy and People of False Bay,

PHASE TWO OF VACCINATION ROLL OUT

At the outset, I wish to thank all concerned for your cooperation, patience and understanding during a rather difficult period in our faith life.

I was inoculated on Monday at Brooklyn Chest Hospital as one of ten Religious Leaders alongside Archbishop Emeritus Tutu. I did this in the interest of the common good and in the hope that the promise of more vaccines to reach our shores will happen in the months to come.

Now that the second phase has been launched and the target group being those who are over sixty years of age, I do encourage you to help one another to register. My concern is that nobody who wants to be vaccinated must be left behind because of the electronic registration system, particularly in rural and poorer areas.

The first step is to register with the Dept of Health (vaccine.enroll.health.gov.za). You will then receive notification that you have been successfully registered on the Department of Health Electronic Vaccine Data system. Then you wait to be contacted regarding next steps, including receiving a voucher number and when and where you must present yourself for vaccination. A few days after you are vaccinated, you will receive a proof of vaccination code, should you be required to verify your vaccination status.

On arrival at the vaccination site on the allocated date, the usual screening is done, as we do when people arrive at our churches. You need to have your identity document and voucher information with you. You cannot just turn up. From there you will be guided to the next person who will fill in a different form, which will ask questions regarding chronic illnesses and Covid history.

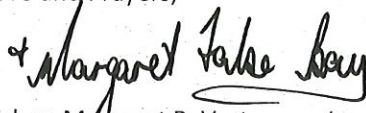
When you get to the nurse, it is best that you use the opposite arm to the hand with which you write. You will feel a little prick but the process is painless and does not have to be feared. I received the Pfizer vaccine, which means that I will be contacted again to receive another jab in about three weeks. I have no side effects but some people do experience flu like symptoms, fatigue and a sore arm for a day or two afterwards. It is recommended that you take two 'panados' before and after being vaccinated.

I do encourage our older persons to register for the vaccine. We are a vulnerable group. For me, it is a ray of hope that we are participating in reducing the spread of the Coronavirus and taking the stress off our hospitals and the health care system.

Please also continue to keep social distancing, wear masks over your mouth and nose, even at home when clergy or lay ministers come on a pastoral visit and keep up with hand sanitizing and all health protocols.

I write as a non-medical person but I am certain that as the vaccination programme continues, that it will roll out many blessings for us all.

Love and Prayers,


Bishop Margaret B. Vertue

