

Update: GEMS vaccinations of public servants

After an inquiry by the PSA as to when COVID-19 vaccines will be made available to the rest of public servants, a Government Employees Medical Scheme (GEMS) Working Committee meeting was held on 24 June 2021.

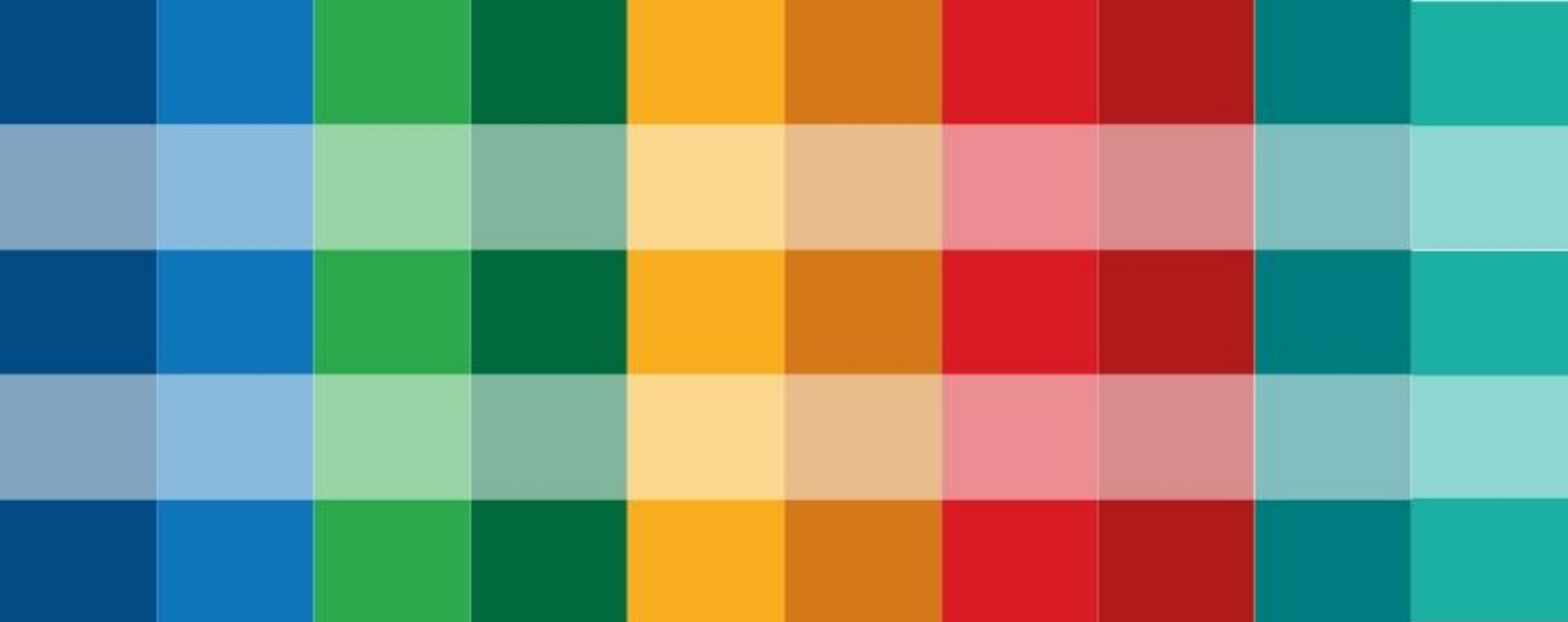
GEMS made a presentation (*attached*) and updated the Committee on the work done to date. GEMS has been assisting Government with the current roll-out process but is also in engagement with the DPSSA and the Department of Health to roll out vaccines in workplace to the entire Public Service. Currently, only the Department of Health can procure and prioritise vaccinations. The South African Police Service and Educators were prioritised for vaccination over the next three weeks, and attempts will be made to fast-track the process.

It was noted from the presentation, that GEMS will be assisting the employer with vaccinations, which include non-GEMS members, and that payments will be recovered from the respective medical aids. GEMS indicated that it is in discussions with the employer and the National Department of Health on the funding of non-insured members as GEMS is not allowed by legislation to fund non-GEMS members.

GEMS also updated labour on the various vaccination sites, as outlined in the presentation and GEMS was urged to ensure that services are made available to members at convenient sites.

As information becomes available, members will be updated.

GENERAL MANAGER



GEMS: Participation in Vaccination of Public Service Employees

PSCBC Working Committee – 24 June 2021

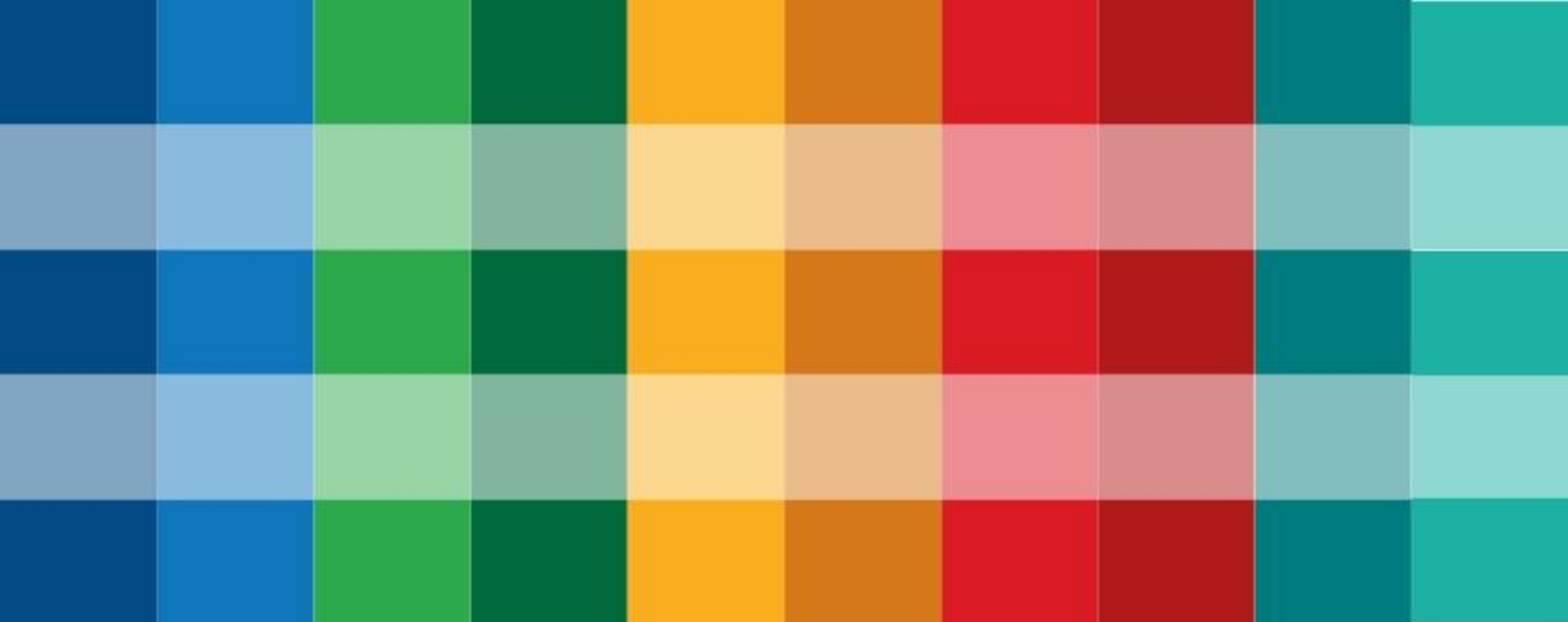
Chief Healthcare Officer – Dr Vuyo Gqola



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Background – GEMS Mandate & Target Population



DPSA Mandate to GEMS



the dpsa

Department:
Public Service and Administration
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X916, PRETORIA, 0001 Tel: (012) 336 1000, Fax: (012) 326 7802
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Enquiries: Mr. Robert Foromo Tel: 012 336 1579 email: RobertF@dpsa.gov.za

TO ALL HEADS OF PROVINCIAL DEPARTMENTS

Dear Colleagues,

RE: VACCINATION PROGRAMME FOR PUBLIC SERVICE EMPLOYEES

Phase 2 of the vaccination rollout is expected to start on the 17th May 2021 as announced by the Cabinet.

The Government Employee Medical Scheme (GEMS) will be providing vaccination services to the public service employees throughout the country. GEMS is working on designing a workplace vaccination model for the public service since the proposed Mass vaccination Site strategy will be discontinued. The workplace vaccination strategy will resemble the wellness day approach, where employees are given services at their workplaces.

GEMS will be contacting the Office of the Premiers (OTPs) to request information they might need for planning of the workplace vaccination programme. The OTPs are implored to assist GEMS with the information and in coordinating the vaccination programme for public servants in the respective provinces.

Your continued cooperation with the DPSA is highly appreciated. Should you require more information with regard to the above, kindly contact Mr. Robert Foromo on 012 336 1579 / 0795138692.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Yoliswa Makhasi".

MS YOLISWA MAKHASI
DIRECTOR-GENERAL

DATE: 4/5/2021

- GEMS has been requested to vaccinate all GEMS and non-GEMS members (Government Employees) in the workplace

DPSA Mandate to GEMS (cont.)



the dpsa

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Dr S Buthelezi
Director General: Department of Health
Private Bag X828
Pretoria
0001

Dear Dr Buthelezi

GEMS PARTICIPATION IN VACCINE ROLL-OUT FOR PUBLIC SERVICE EMPLOYEES

1. We are all in the midst of ensuring that Phase 2 of Vaccine rollout programme which commences on the 17th May 2021 is successful. Phase two will also cover Public Service employees other than Healthcare workers and as the Department we have been putting plans in place for this Phase.
2. The department approved that the Government Employees Medical Scheme (GEMS) partner with us in the vaccination of Public Service employees.
3. There has been continuous engagements and collaboration between the Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA), GEMS and the National Department of Health (NDoH) to gather more information and inputs on how to ensure implementation of an effective vaccination strategy in the workplace both nationally and provincially.
4. The NDoH remains the lead Government Department in the Vaccination rollout programme however in order for GEMS to successfully support the programme and establish effective vaccination delivery platforms for Public Service employees, the Scheme requests that the NDoH writes to Provincial Health Departments officially informing them that GEMS:
 - a) Has been appointed to act as an authorized representative to support the provinces in the effective implementation of the vaccine roll out for Public service employees;
 - b) Requests access to and permission to collaborate with the Project Managers at various Provincial Health Departments; and
 - c) Requests that the appropriate Provincial authority identify representatives in the respective provinces to form task teams that will ensure a coordinated approach.

5. Should it be required, Ms Masingita Chevalsele masingita@gems.gov.za can be contacted by Provinces to provide their contact details to ensure adequate processes are put in place for the implementation.

Yours sincerely

MS YOLISWA MAKHASI
DIRECTOR-GENERAL
DATE: 17/05/2021

Cc: Deputy Director General

Target Population: GEMS members and Other Government Employees

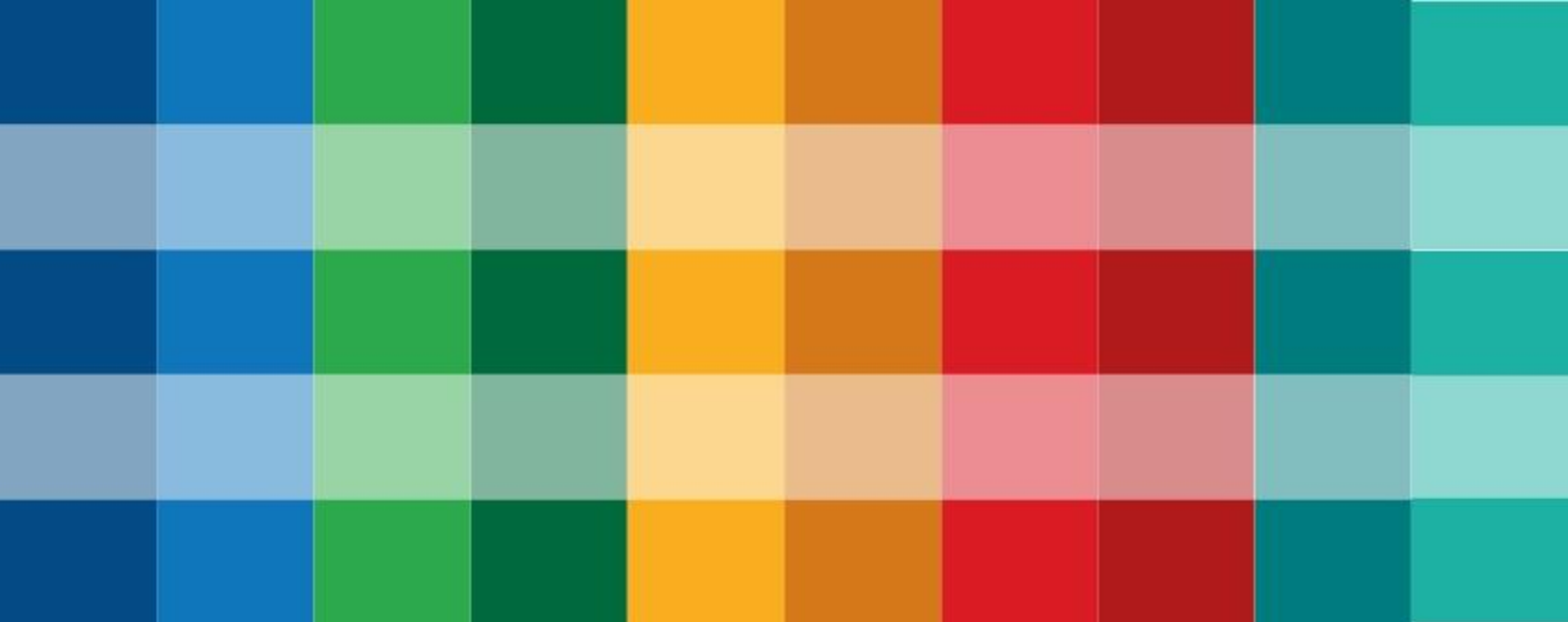


The GEMS Vaccination Rollout Programme is in line with the NDOH Rollout Program

	Number of GEMS members (Inc. Beneficiaries)	DPSA Employees (estimated)	Total
2a: Pensioners and over 60 yo	237 408	46 694	284 102
2b: 40 to 59 yo irrespective of comorbid illnesses	551 179	807 185	1 358 364
3: All adults 18 to 39	481 599	584 084	1 065 683
Total	1 270 186	1 437 963	2 708 149

- ❖ GEMS is participating in the workplace vaccination work Streams by DoH and B4SA
- ❖ Participation for phase 3 will be confirmed after further engagements with DoH and DPSA

Educators and SAPS are being prioritised for vaccination over the next 3 weeks – GEMS is engaging NDoH, SAPS and DBE



GEMS Implementation Plan



GEMS Implementation Plan

Vaccination Sites (GEMS Hybrid Approach)

Work Place Sites

- Identified in collaboration with Provinces.
- Supported by contracted GEMS Network Pharmacies (ICPA).
- Specific Public Servants sites to be agreed upon in collaboration with provinces.

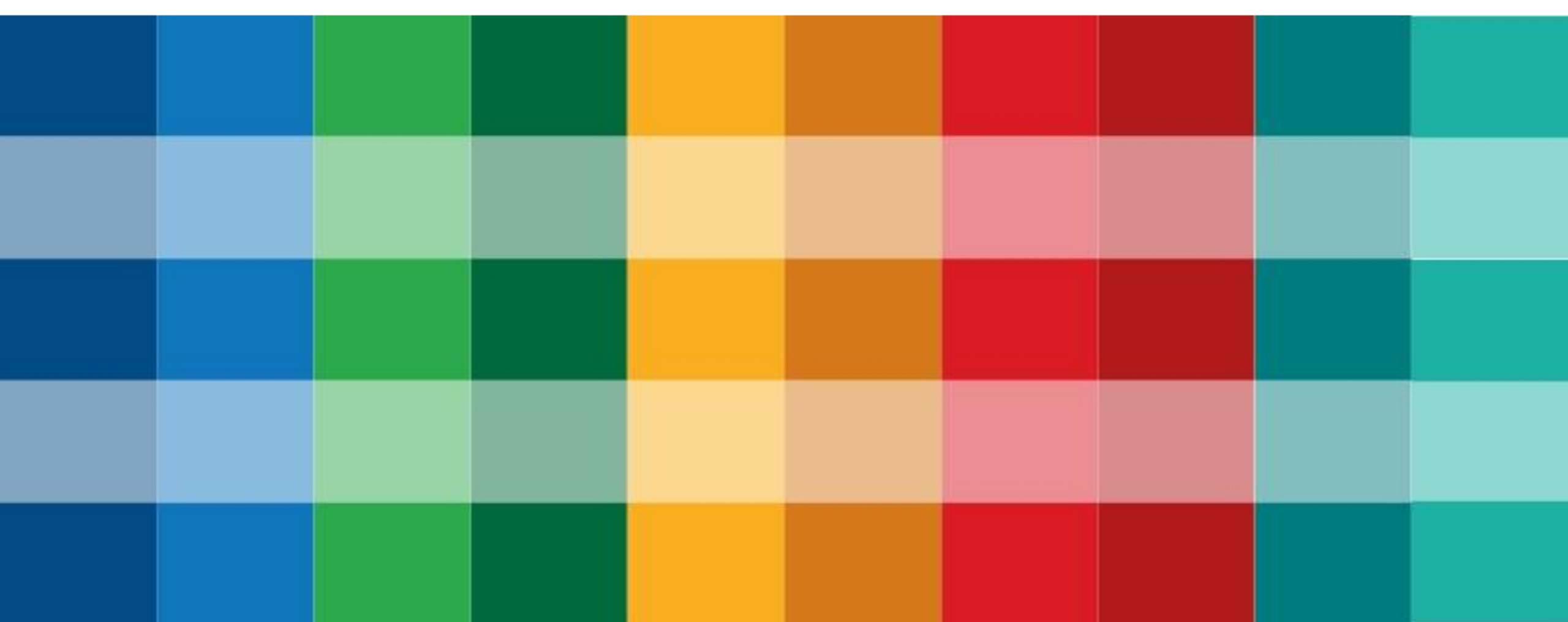
Mass Sites

- Partnership with contracted Service Providers (Metropolitan and Medscheme)
- Phase 2a-eligible GEMS members and DPSA employees (2b and 3 at a later stage)
- 7 main sites are currently vaccinating Phase 2a eligible members (60 and above):
 - Centurion
 - Sandton
 - Florida North (JHB)
 - Bellville (Cape Town)
 - Woodstock (Cape Town)
 - Umhlanga (Durban)
 - Berea (Durban)
- More still are still in progress of being set up – PE, BFN, PLK, PMB
- GEMS Votumi House (WIP)

GEMS Network Facilities

- Pharmacies (ICPA, Clicks, Dischem)
- Hospital groups
- GP's

The list of vaccinating Network Facilities is on the GEMS website, and will be updated on a weekly basis.



Workplace Vaccination Sites (Phase 2b: ages 40 to 59)



Workplace Vaccination Site (Phase 2b)

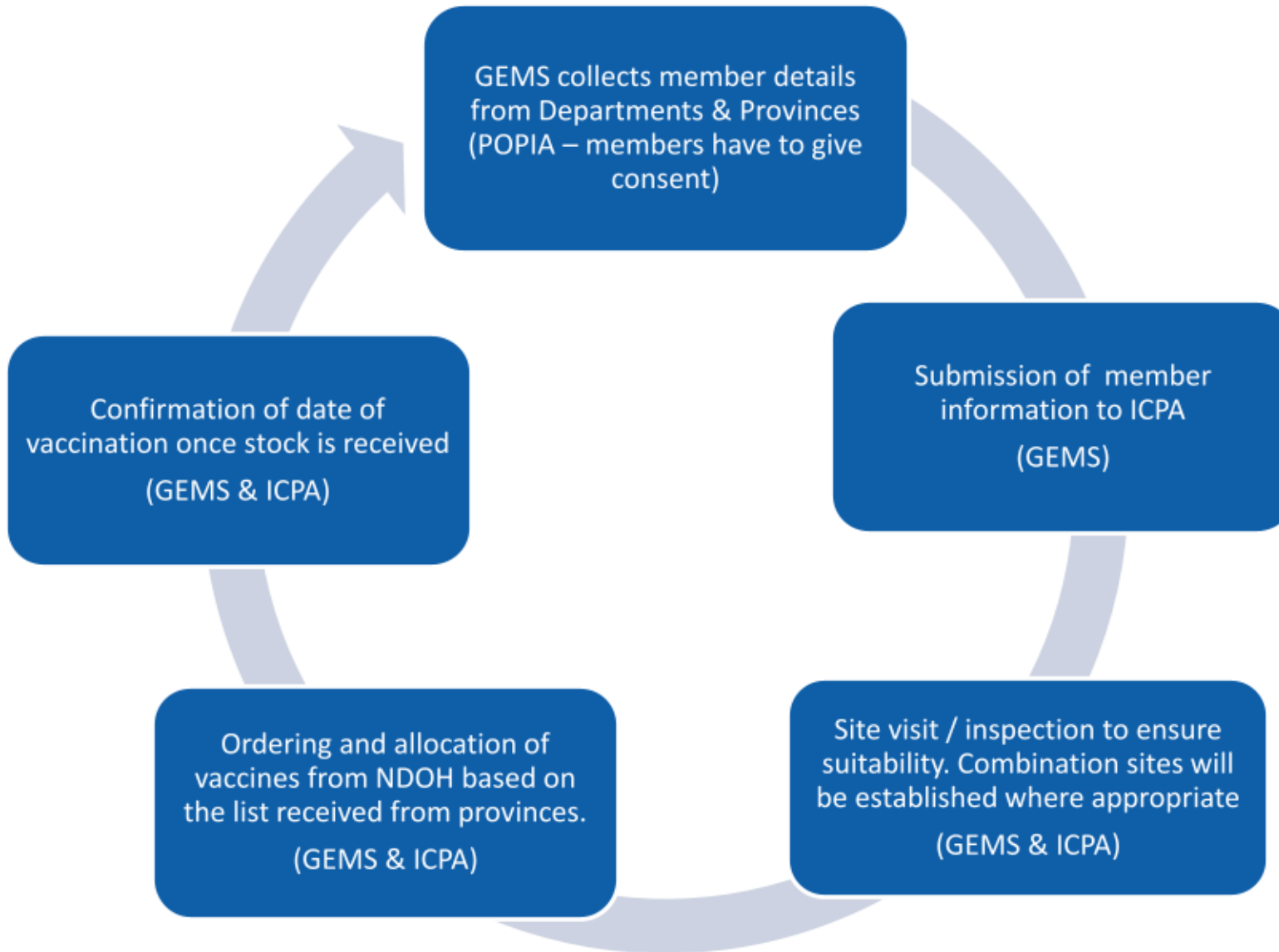


Planning Meetings

Provincial Departments	<p>Engagements that have taken place:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gauteng DIRCO • Gauteng Office the Premier • Western Cape Provincial Government • Eastern Cape Provincial Government • Eastern Cape Department of Health <p>The following committee meetings were attended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eastern Cape COVID Vaccination Committee • Eastern Cape OTP Working Stream • Mpumalanga OTP weekly session • North West Disaster Management forum
National Departments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DPSA • NDoH
Other / Legislative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Technical Task Team • Inter-Ministerial Committee • DPSA Minister and DM



Logistics & Planning: Workplace Vaccination Sites



LOGISTICAL SUPPORT PROVIDED BY GEMS

- Coordination, planning and set-up of vaccinations sites.
- Nurses (pre-screening, post-vaccination monitoring).
- Vaccinators and technical support.

Phase 2b Rollout Implementation Approach



May-June 2021

June – November 21

May- Dec 21

Dec 21

Planning

- Engagement with Stakeholders (DoH, DPSA, Offices of the Premiers etc. for work based planning purposes.
- Definition of suitable rollout implementation approach per department/ province based on their current plans.
- Collection of employee details.
- Coordination with vaccination partners for capacity planning and scheduling.
- Communication to members on rollout plans, registrations and sites.

Executing (Implementing)

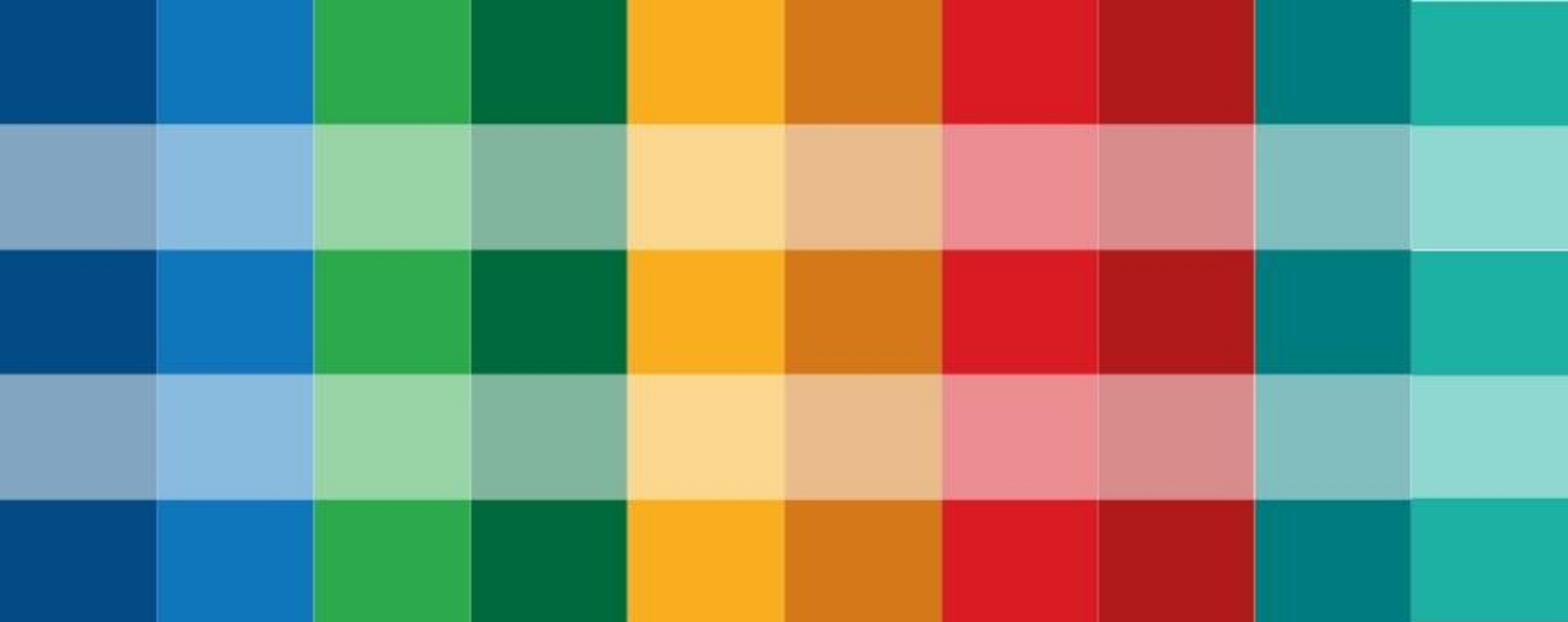
- Allocation of public servants to workplace based sites or combination sites.
- Site visitation for compliance consideration.
- Confirmation of vaccination dates at relevant sites.
- Communicating progress of rollout program to stakeholders
- Maintaining communication with various stakeholders (Social media platforms, FAQ, GEMS Website)

Monitoring and Controlling

- **Internal Reporting:** Reporting on the progress (no. of vaccinations, wastages, claims processing etc.)
- **External Reporting:** Communicating progress updates with different external stakeholders (NDoH, DPSA, National working Task Team etc.)
- Report and manage rollout risks and issues
- Capture lessons learned to inform phase 3 rollout planning.

Closure

- Review and Consolidate Reports
- Project handover and transition
- Project Closure (reports and meeting)



GEMS Mass Vaccination Sites & GEMS Network Sites



THIS IS AN OPTION FOR PUBLIC SERVANTS THAT PREFER NOT TO BE VACCINATED IN THE WORKPLACE, AS WELL AS FOR GEMS BENEFICIARIES THAT ARE NOT PUBLIC SERVANTS

- Registration must be done on the Department of Health's EVDS system. Vaccinations done in line with National Program. Sites will be operational during Phases 2a, 2b and 3
- The system will ask individuals to indicate where they live. Based on this information, the EVDS system will allocate a vaccination centre based on the location.
- Vaccination centres are clearly marked with directional signage to ensure that designated parking areas are used.
- Strict measures are in place to keep employees and visitors safe at all times – social distancing, clear signage to direct people where to go.
- At Mass sites - security is present, local police stations have been notified in the surrounding areas as an additional precaution.

Mass Vaccine Site



	WESTERN CAPE	KZN	GAUTENG
Mass Vaccine Sites and Addresses	Momentum Metropolitan Parc Du Cap, Building 5 - Ground floor 5 Mispel Street, Bellville, 7535	Momentum Metropolitan Building Ground floor 201 Umhlanga Ridge Boulevard, Cornubia, Durban	Momentum Building Ground Floor 67 Koranna Avenue Doringkloof Centurion, Pretoria
	Medscheme Searle Street Woodstock, Cape Town	Medscheme 102 Stephen Dlamini Road, Musgrave	Momentum Metropolitan The Mark Building Ground floor 129 Rivonia Road Sandton
			Medscheme 37 Conrad Street, Florida North, 1709

Operating hours for all sites:
Monday – Saturday 08h00 – 16h00

Currently vaccinating Phase 2a eligible members (60 years old and above)

SMS's are being sent to Phase 2a-eligible members who reside within a 10km radius of vaccination centres to encourage them to come get vaccinated

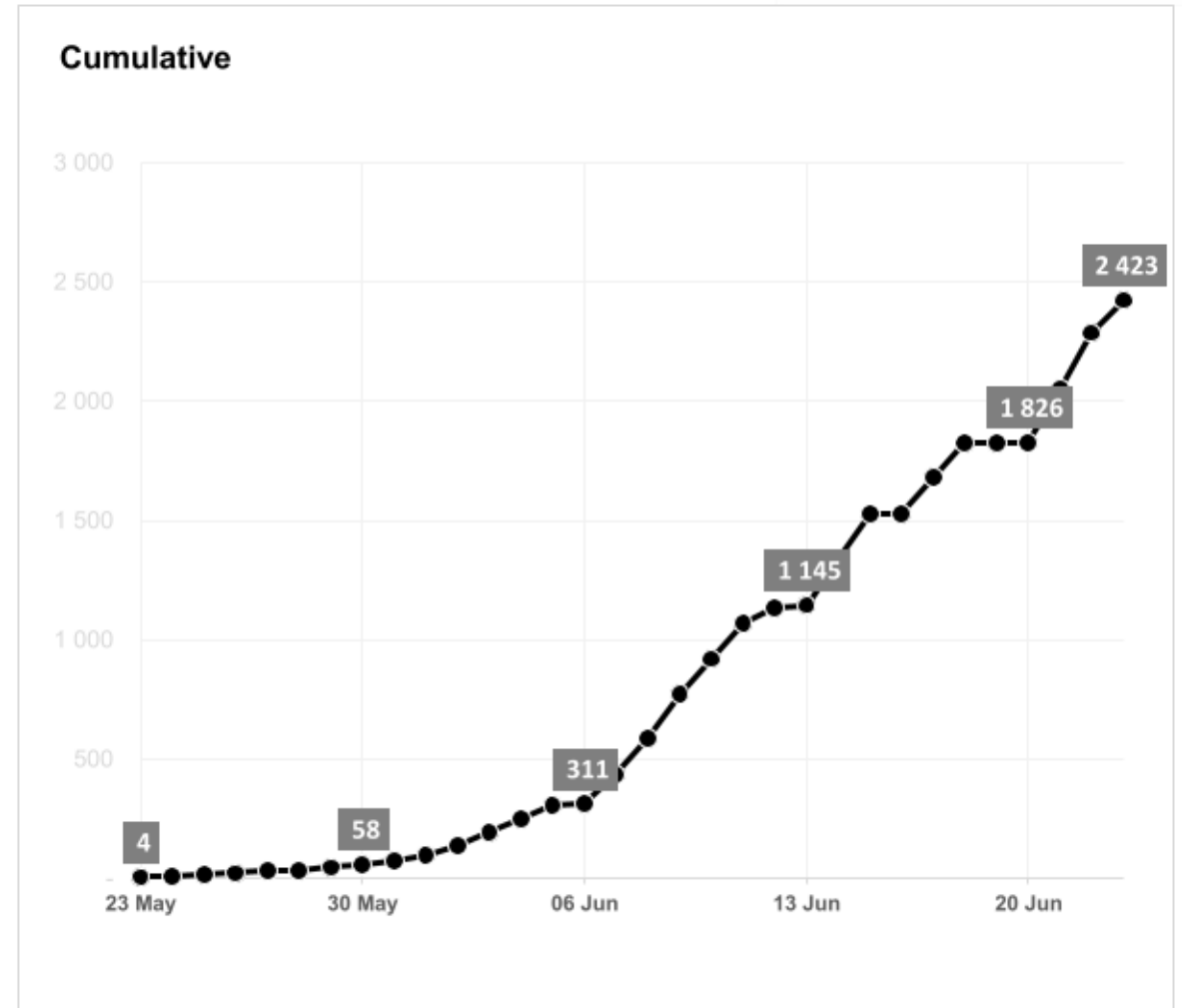
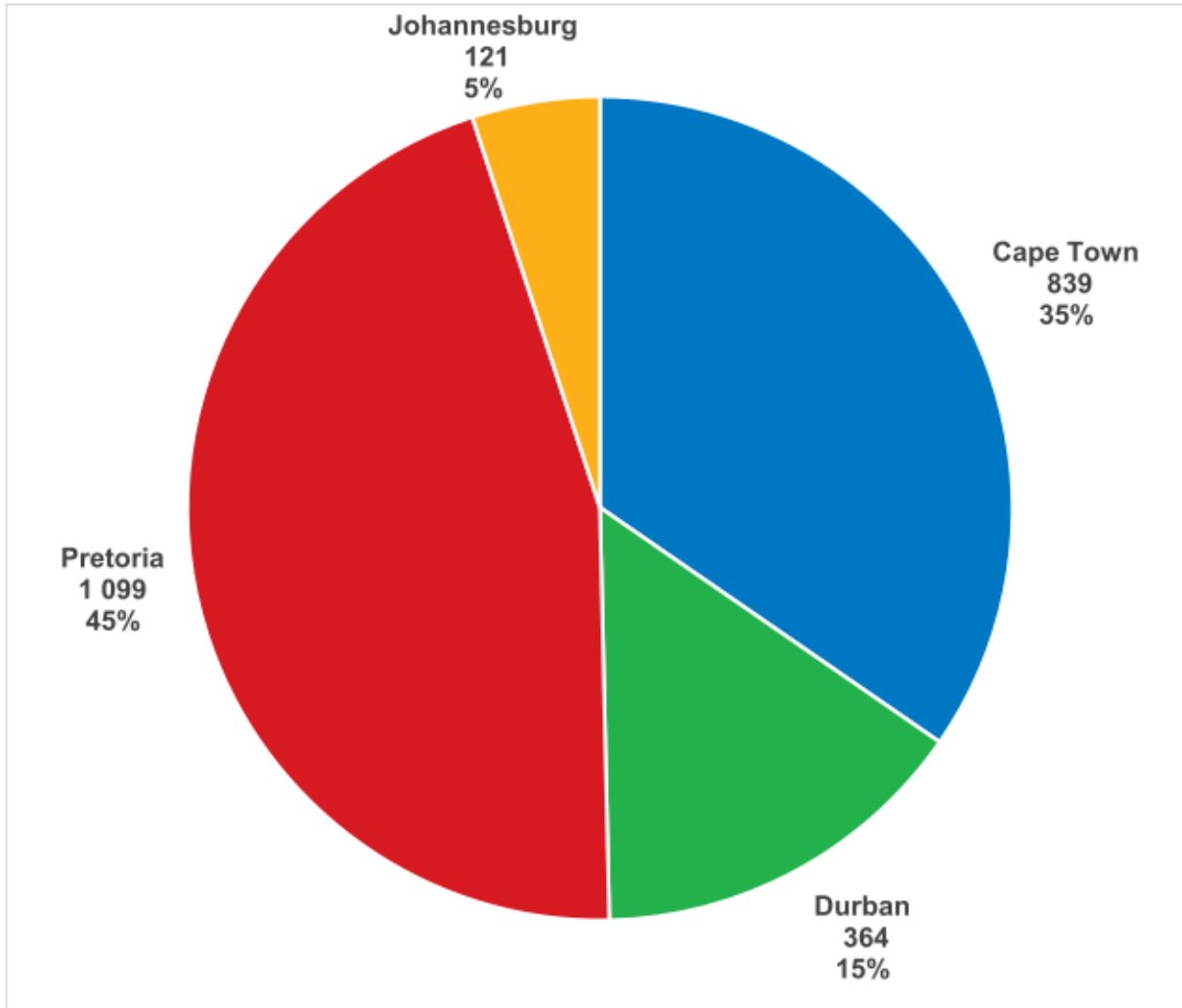
Wed 23 June 2021

2 423

total vaccinations



Mass Vaccination Sites – GEMS Members

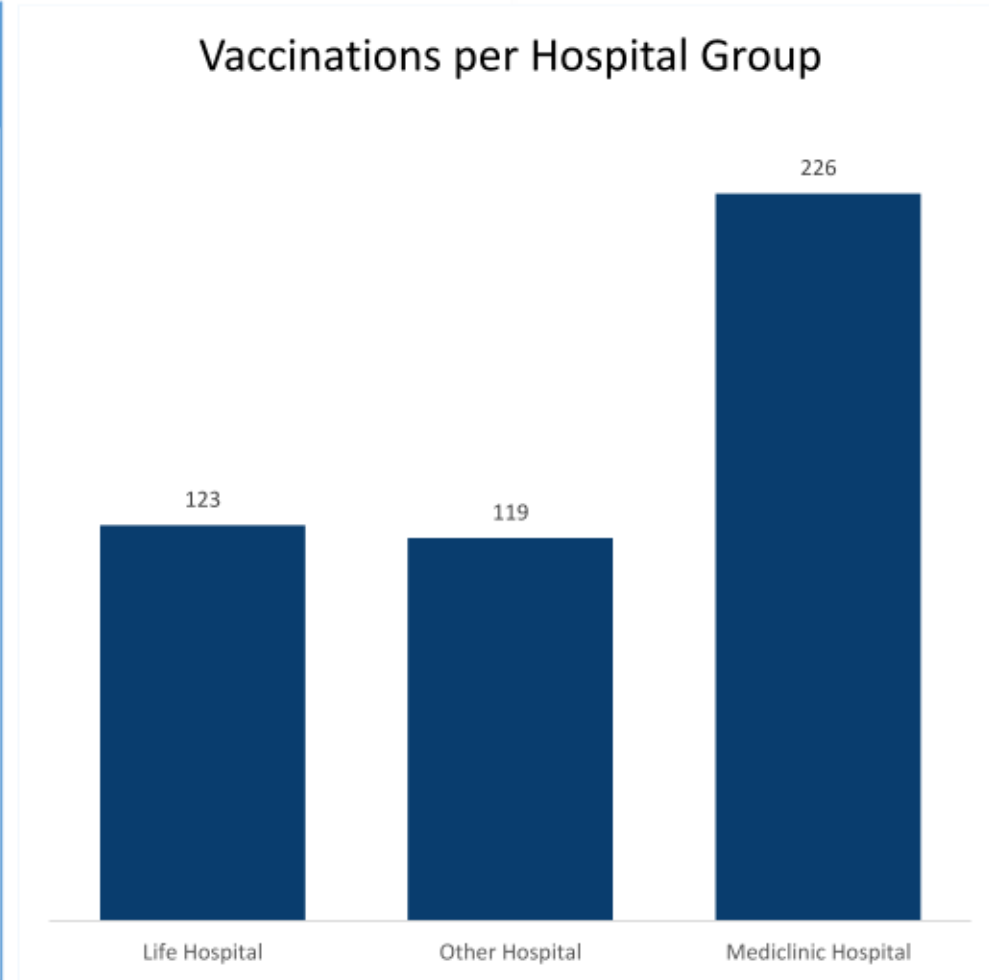


Vaccination Sites – GEMS Network (& other) Hospitals

As at 14 June 2021



Mediclinic	Netcare	Clinix	Life Healthcare	NHN
Cape Gate	Milpark	Bophelong	Life Cosmos	Zuid Afrikaans
Milnerton	N1 City	Empilweni	Life Empangeni	Hospital
Medforum	St Augustine	Naledi Nkanyezi	Life Entabeni	Midlands Medical
Bloemfontein		Selby Park	Life Flora	Centre
Pietermaritzburg		Tshepo Themba	Life Hilton	RH Matjhabeng
Geneva			Life Kingsbury	The Fountains
Vergelegen			Life Peglerae	Hospital
Morningside			Life St Dominics	
Gariep			Life Wilgers	
			Life St George	
			Life Glynnwood	

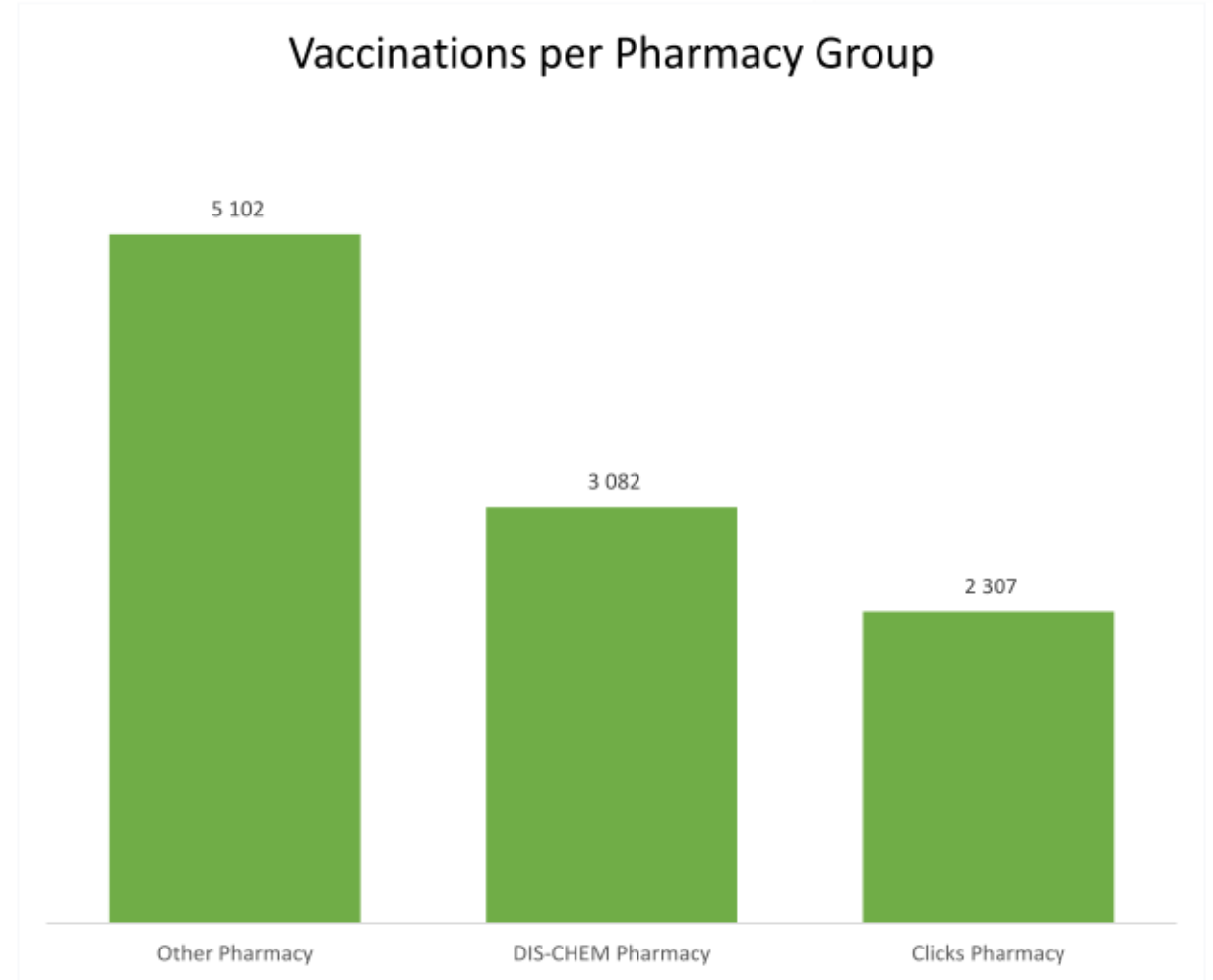


Vaccination Sites – GEMS Network Pharmacies

As at 14 June 2021



Network Pharmacies	Actively Vaccinating Pharmacies
Independent Pharmacies (Independent Community Pharmacy Association)	27 Pharmacies
Clicks	60 Pharmacies
Dischem	10 Pharmacies

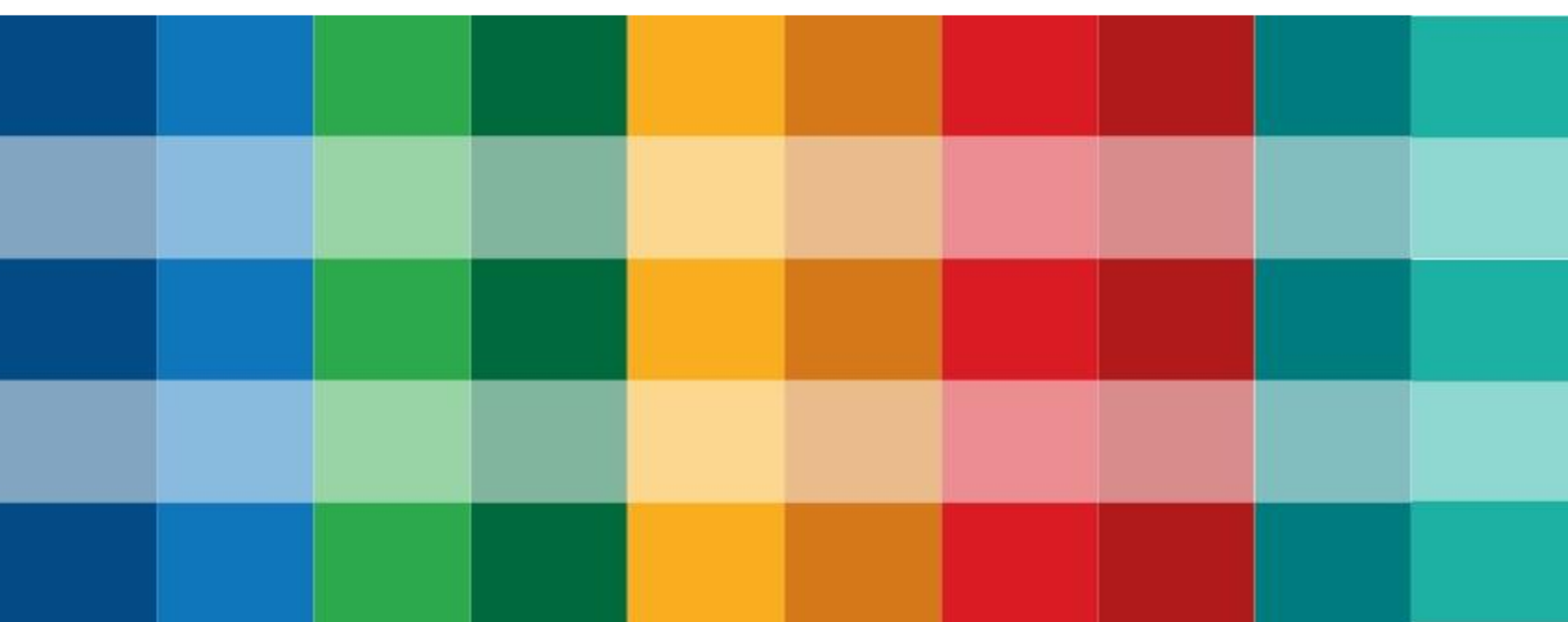


Total GEMS Members vaccinated (ALL SITES) up to 18 June 2021



COVID-19 Vaccine				
OPTION	No. of patients	Approved Item Net	Due By Patient Amt	Cost per item
TANZANITE ONE	205	R72,723.75	R0.00	R354.75
BERYL	389	R137,288.31	R0.00	R352.93
RUBY	738	R261,093.00	R0.00	R353.78
EMERALD	8022	R2,848,158.04	R0.00	R354.78
EMERALD VALUE	1968	R698,175.44	R0.00	R354.76
ONYX	2227	R790,383.12	R0.00	R354.75
Grand Total	13 549	R4,807,821.66	R0.00	R354.66

- COVID-19 vaccine claims per option plan for service dates between the 17 May to 18 June 2021
 - Total claims for 13 549 members who claimed for the Pfizer vaccine have been processed
 - On average the cost per vaccine is currently R354.85.



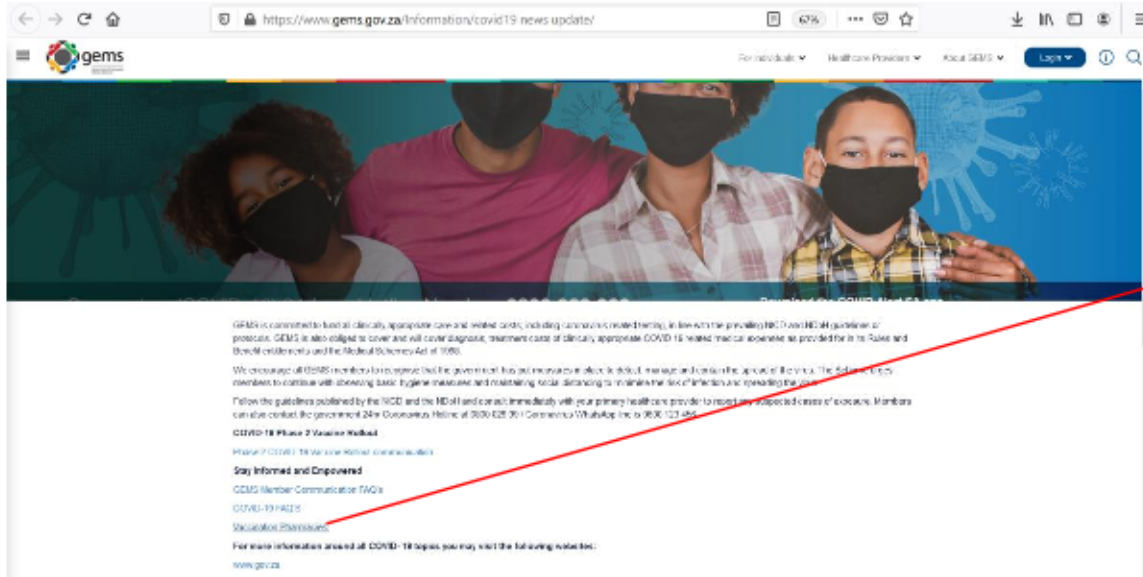
Communication Plan



Web campaign page

Key Notes:

- Banner on home page is currently live



COVID-19 Phase 2 Vaccine Rollout

Phase 2 COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout communication

Stay Informed and Empowered

GEMS Member Communication FAQ's

COVID-19 FAQ'S

[Vaccination Pharmacies](#)

Social media activity



PO Communication: Published on socials, supported by "how to" EVDS registration video

GEMS
Published by Lester Ngwenya · 7 January ·

Media statement: GEMS on track to support Covid-19 vaccine rollout efforts for its members in the public service

GEMS is on track to support Covid-19 vaccine rollout efforts for its members in the public service. The Government Employees Medical Scheme (GEMS) is a member of the Board of Healthcare Funders (BHF) along with other stakeholders in the public service. The BHF is developing a national framework that will guide the industry and the extent of vaccine funding.

Following the announcement by the Minister of Health, Dr. Zola Skolwenhiso, on the Covid-19 vaccine rollout strategy, the Government Employees Medical Scheme (GEMS) has affirmed its readiness to support government efforts to roll out a Covid-19 vaccine for its members and their dependents, in line with the strategy.

Dr. Stan Moloabi, Principal Officer at GEMS, "The Scheme is ready to assist in paying for the approved vaccine to the benefit of a large number of members and their dependents in the public service, as well as to support the vaccine rollout efforts in the public service. The Scheme is also committed to supporting the vaccine rollout efforts in the public service, as well as to support the vaccine rollout efforts in the public service."

The approval by the South African Health Products Regulatory Authority (SAHPRA) is obtained for the clinically appropriate vaccine that is being used in the rollout. GEMS will fund the vaccine for all members and their dependents in line with the strategy announced by the Minister of Health.

Funding will be provided for vaccination in line with the targeted population group support efforts to achieve herd immunity through the three-phased approach outlined by Minister Moloabi. The vaccine rollout will be guided by the price and quality of the vaccine, as well as the availability of the vaccine.

A member-centric Scheme, we are fully committed to our mandate which is to provide equitable and affordable access to healthcare to Public Service employees and their dependents.

Moloabi further confirmed that GEMS will continue to cover the Covid-19 vaccine as part of the Prescribed Minimum Benefits (PMB) entitlements in line with the requirements of the Republic, the Registrar of the GEMS. Therefore, all costs covered as a PMB and current member contributions and benefit allocation will be unaffected.

Moloabi highlighted that, although the cost of each dose of the vaccine is a concern, it is dependent on the volume of Government Covid-19 vaccine rollout and procurement process which is currently underway. The Scheme is ready to fund the vaccine as it had already earmarked a budget for the vaccine in its 2021 budget. This pandemic is a test to the system that the country is trying to drive the implementation of National Health Insurance (NHI) in line with its priorities and individual healthcare needs, and have the opportunity to demonstrate that we can realise Universal Healthcare Coverage and equitable access to quality healthcare for the country." concluded Dr Moloabi.

36,241 People reached | 6,033 Engagements | Boost post

Government Employees Medical Scheme @GEMS_Numb... · May 16

Read the message from the Principal Officer, Dr Stan Moloabi, regarding COVID-19 vaccine Phase 2 which begins on 17 May 2021, visit bit.ly/3yeBAbf and find out more about registration and where to get vaccinated.

GEMS
Published by Lester Ngwenya · 16 May at 20:00 ·

Read the message from the Principal Officer, Dr Stan Moloabi, regarding COVID-19 vaccine Phase 2 which begins on 17 May 2021, visit bit.ly/3yeBAbf and find out more about registration and where to get vaccinated.

GEMS.GOV.ZA
Government Employees Medical Scheme
Government Employees Medical Scheme

Visit the COVID-19 Information Centre for vaccine resources. [Get Vaccine Info](#)

10 Likes | 15 comments | 2 shares

Like Comment Share

GEMS · 18 May at 14:02 ·

Everyone is encouraged to get vaccinated. Register and Vaccinate now! #VaccinatetoSaveSouthAfrica #StaySafe. For more more information follow the link <http://vaccine.enroll.health.gov.za>

Government Employees Medical Scheme @GEMS_Numb... · May 18

Everyone is encouraged to get vaccinated. Register and vaccinate now! #VaccinatetoSaveSouthAfrica #StaySafe For more more information follow the link vaccine.enroll.health.gov.za

As an elderly, my family asked me to stay protected at home.

0:29 | 13 views

PO Interviews: Vaccine Rollout



Print and Online Publications

City Press (First Edition)

The Witness

Med Brief Africa

Sowetan Live

Sowetan Live

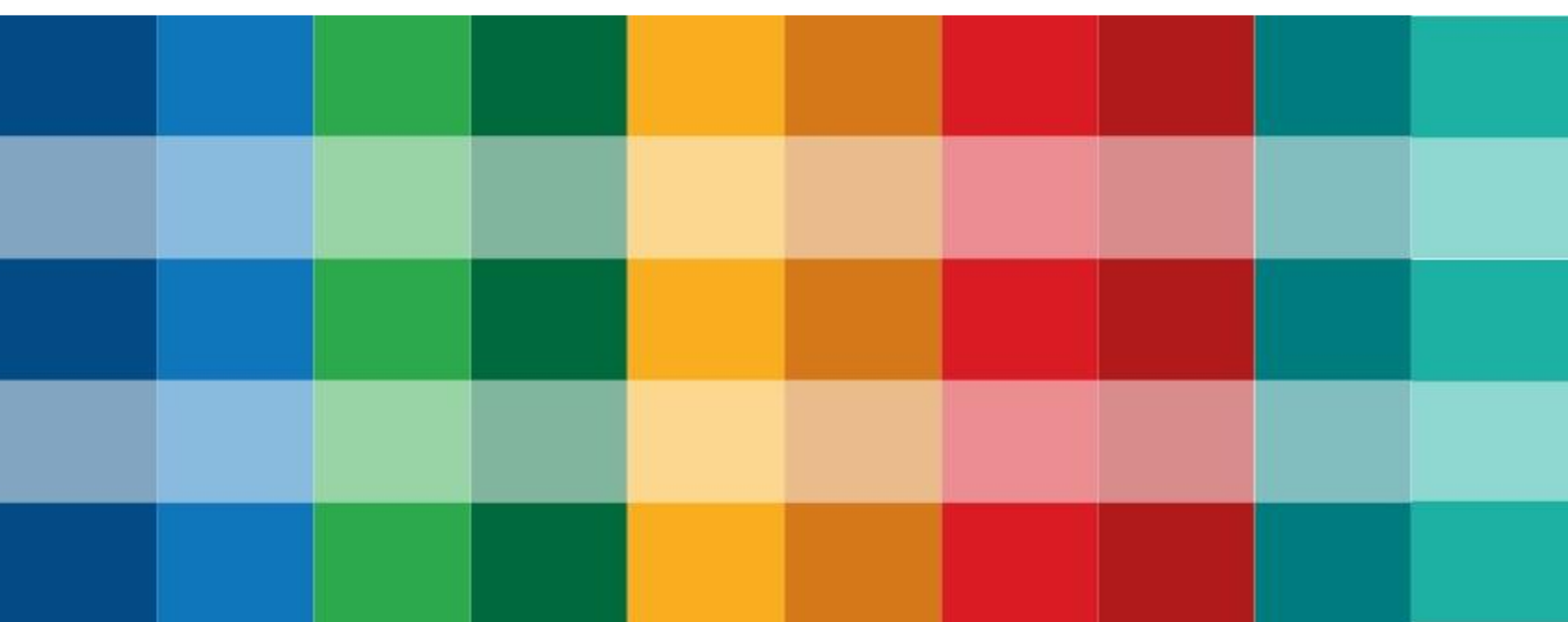
Head Topics

News24



Working towards a healthier you

Working towards a healthier you

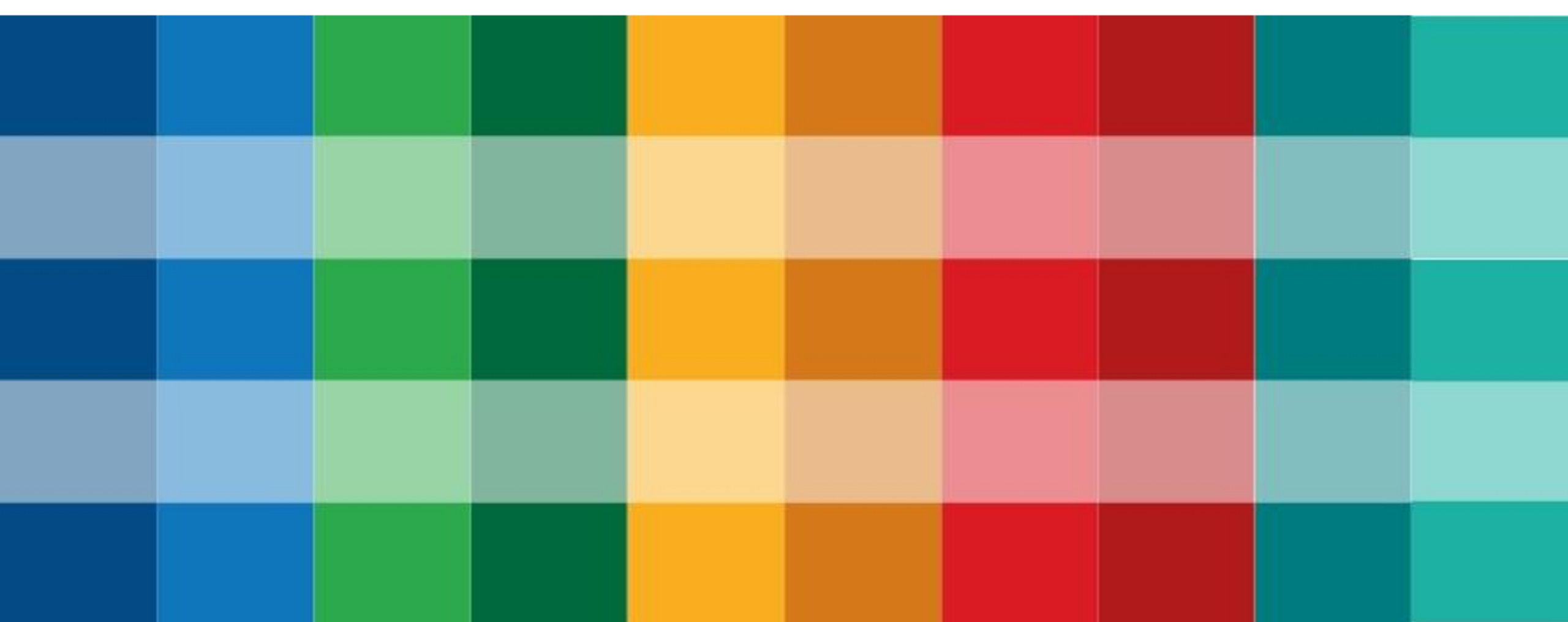


Challenges



Challenges

- Aligning to the Provincial vaccine roll out plans to complement effective implementation – provinces to share their plans
- Availability and accessibility of the vaccines is a major limiting factor
- Sharing of critical employee data due to POPI Act
- Registration of Phase 2b eligible public service employees has not commenced – no confirmed date
- Delays in members receiving vouchers from EVDS (60 yrs and above)



Next Steps / Way Forward



Next Steps / Way Forward



01

GEMS continues to engage DPSA, NDOH and Provinces – main area of concern is on priority groups

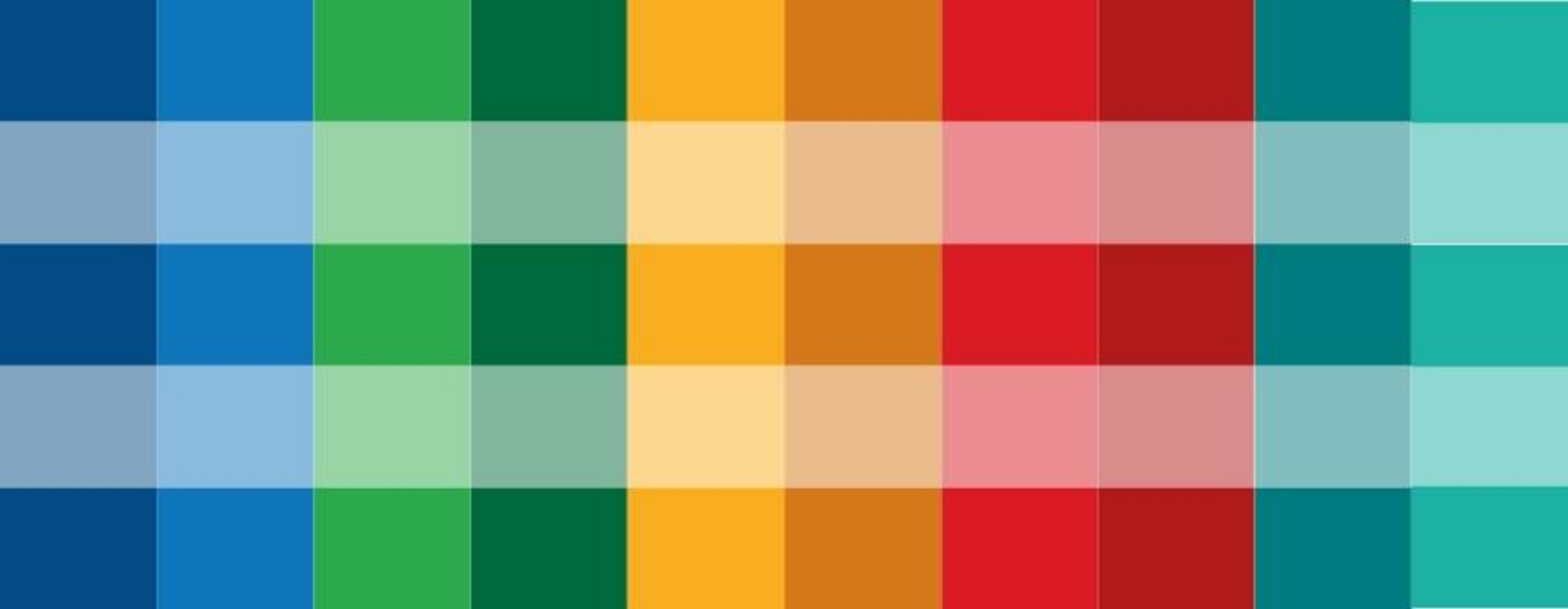
02

GEMS will continue to communicate to members (based on Phase eligibility) via sms, social media platforms, GEMS website

03

DPSA to advise on where GEMS should send information of actively vaccinating sites

04



THANK YOU