

An Employer's Guide to Mandatory Workplace Vaccination Policies





# COVID-19 VACCINATION ROLL-OUTS HAVE ALREADY COMMENCED IN SEVERAL COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD INCLUDING SOUTH AFRICA.

The Minister of Health and the President of the Republic have made it clear that the South African government does not intend to make the COVID-19 vaccination mandatory. Absent a law which mandates the inoculation of the entire population against COVID-19 and given the serious risks posed by the more deadly and transmissible new strain, introducing the vaccine raises these questions: (i) should employers consider implementing a mandatory vaccination policy? (ii) how does an employer deal with employees or applicants for employment who refuse to be vaccinated? (iii) are beliefs regarding vaccinations, i.e. veganism, health related concerns, religion and the like legitimate grounds for an employee to refuse to comply with a mandatory vaccination policy?

This guide assists employers in navigating the above-mentioned considerations and aims to provide direction in determining under what circumstances a mandatory vaccination policy should to be implemented. While mandatory vaccinations may not be immediately applicable in light of the availability of the vaccine, it is useful for employers to begin considering its workplace policies in this regard and to commence educating and communicating with its employees about the subject.

### THE STATE'S VACCINATION PROGRAMME

## WHAT IS THE GOVERNMENT'S POSITION IN RELATION TO MANDATORY VACCINATIONS?

- The government has advised that they will not be implementing a mandatory vaccination programme and that vaccines will be administered by consent. The President categorically stated that no one would be forced to be vaccinated and that the government had no intention of forbidding travel on the basis of a refusal to be vaccinated, nor would they be prohibited from participating in public activity.
- The President has also made it clear that the vaccine would not be a barrier to enrolment in schools.
- However, it remains to be seen with the mutation of the virus and the availability of the COVID-19 vaccine whether the vaccine will in future become mandatory for international travel, similar to the yellow fever vaccine.

# DOES THE GOVERNMENT'S STANCE TO ADMINISTER VACCINES BY CONSENT PROHIBIT AN EMPLOYER FROM IMPLEMENTING A MANDATORY VACCINATION POLICY?

 No, there remains no prohibition in law that inhibits employers from implementing a mandatory vaccination programme in their workplace.

## WHAT ROLE DO EMPLOYERS PLAY IN ASSISTING GOVERNMENT WITH THE VACCINE ROLL-OUT?

In order to assist with the vaccine roll out, the government has established a number of committees. Once such committee is the Private Health Sector Co-ordinating Committee which consists of, amongst others, employers and business associations.



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# THE PHASED APPROACH TO VACCINE ROLL-OUT

- Phase 1: this phase is currently being implemented and is due to be completed in April 2021. To date a total of 250,000 health care workers have been vaccinated as part of Government's Sisonke Trial.
- Phase 2: is said to commence in May 2021 and will continue for six months. This phase will cover over 13,350,140 citizens in the vulnerable groups (citizens over the age of 60 and citizens with comorbidities), essential workers and occupational health and safety streams. Employees in sectors critical for economic recovery such as: mines, hospitality, the taxi industry, retail and spaza shops, fruit and vegetable vendors, media and other applicable beneficiaries are included. Registration for this phase will commence in April. Online registration is encouraged however, citizens without online access may register in person.
- Phase 3: will be implemented over three months from November 2021-February 2022. This phase aims to cover the remaining citizens, including those who were not vaccinated in Phase 2. Government aims to vaccinate 22,600,640 citizens.

### THE REGISTRATION PROCESS

The vaccination cites will be expanded to 2085 and will include the private sector sites to improve the efficiency and speed of the vaccination roll-out programme. Sites include general practitioners' rooms, community clinics and pharmacies, retail outlets and in some cases, larger facilities like stadiums and conference centres.

An Electronic Vaccination Data System (EDVS) has been established to manage the vaccine roll-out and to direct people towards vaccination sites closest to where they reside. The EVDS will allow citizens to register, receive an appointment date and site, and to receive a digital certificate or a hard copy confirming their vaccination status once vaccinated. Citizens who are eligible for vaccination will have to be registered on the EVDS first.

# SOUTH AFRICA'S ACQUISITION OF VACCINES

Government has secured 11 million doses of the Johnson  $\vartheta$  Johnson vaccine , which is said to be effective against the dominant variants in our country. Government has secured a further 20 million doses and is underway finalising the agreement with Johnson  $\vartheta$  Johnson. It is also finalising an agreement for 20 million doses of the Pfizer vaccine, which requires two doses. Together, this supply of vaccines will provide citizens with enough doses to vaccinate around 41 million people.

Government is also in various stages of negotiations with the manufacturers of other vaccines such as *Sinovac, Sinopharm and Sputnik V.* Some of these manufacturers are in the final stages of the approval process for use of the vaccines in South Africa. In addition, to the vaccine doses that government will receive directly, through its agreements with manufacturers, it will also receive an allocation of vaccine doses through the African Union (AU).

### SALE OF THE ASTRAZENECA VACCINE

The Minister of health, Dr Zweli Mkhize (minister), has confirmed that the sale of the AstraZeneca vaccines has been concluded with the AU.

The Minister further announced that the first batch of the AstraZeneca vaccines will be delivered to nine member states of the AU and the balance of the AstraZeneca vaccines would be delivered to five other countries. The names of the recipient states and countries have not been revealed by the Minister as yet. Although, the Minister has indicated that the AU would purchase the one million vaccines at the same amount spent to procure them from the Serum Institute of India.

Government's decision in this regard has been criticised by leading medical scientists on the basis that government has not determined AstraZeneca's effectiveness against a variant that is widespread on the African continent.

### HERD IMMUNITY THRESHOLD

Government aims to vaccinate 29 million adult citizens before the end of the year, in order to reach the herd immunity threshold. This would help realise meaningful health and economic outcomes, and would avoid many preventable COVID-19 related deaths.



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### **PUBLIC PERCEPTION**

## WHAT IS THE SOUTH AFRICAN PUBLIC PERCEPTION IN RELATION TO ACCEPTING THE COVID-19 VACCINE?

- On 25 January 2021, the Centre for Social Change and the University of Johannesburg in partnership with the Developmental, Capable and Ethical State research division of the Human Sciences Research Council published a research study on the South African public willingness to receive the COVID-19 vaccine and their reasons related thereto.
- The study showed the following:
  - 67% of adults would definitely or probably take a vaccine if it available;
  - 18% of adults would definitely or probably not take a vaccine; and
  - 15% of adults did not know whether they would accept the vaccine.
- A copy of the complete report can be found at the following link: <a href="https://www.uj.ac.za/newandevents/Pages/UJ-HSRC-survey-shows-that-two-thirds-of-adults-are-willing-to-take-the-Covid-19-vaccine.aspx">https://www.uj.ac.za/newandevents/Pages/UJ-HSRC-survey-shows-that-two-thirds-of-adults-are-willing-to-take-the-Covid-19-vaccine.aspx</a>

## WHAT WERE COMMONLY CITED REASONS FOR NON-ACCEPTANCE OF THE VACCINE?

The most commonly cited reasons for non-acceptance were related to effectiveness of the vaccine, side effects and uncertainty about testing. Many people said they needed more information about the vaccine. Only 10% of those who stated that they would not accept the vaccine or who were unsure whether they would accept the vaccine referred to conspiracy theories.

### **IVERMECTIN**

## WHAT IS THE POSITION IN SOUTH AFRICA IN RELATION TO THE USE OF IVERMECTIN TO TREAT COVID-19?

Ivermectin is a drug not previously registered for use in humans in South Africa. In the recent High Court decision of *Dr Coetzee* and Others v South African Health Products Regulatory Authority and Others (2820/2021), the South Gauteng High Court approved the use of Ivermectin for emergency use and where developed for human use.

The South African Health Products Regulatory Authority (SAHPRA) has been reviewing all new evidence on the safety and efficacy of ivermectin for the treatment and prevention of COVID-19 and maintains that there is insufficient evidence for or against the use of ivermectin in the prevention or treatment of COVID-19.

In the interim, SAHPRA will implement a compassionate use access program via the legal framework of Section 21 of the Medicines and Related Substances Control Act 101 of 1965 (as amended). Clear guidance on how this access programme will work will be published separately. This access programme will utilise the opportunity to collect much-needed data on the performance of ivermectin in South African patients.

# PRELIMINARY CONSIDERATIONS PERTAINING TO MANDATORY VACCINATION POLICIES

### WHY SHOULD EMPLOYERS CONSIDER A VACCINATION POLICY?

- Vaccination policies inform employees of the employers' stance regarding inoculation and their reason for it.
- Vaccination policies also enhance the health and safety of employees and is in line with the duty of employers to provide a safe working environment.
- If employee's refuse to be inoculated without reasonable
  justification, their employment may possibly be terminated on
  the basis of operational requirements, potentially incapacity
  or even misconduct. This will be a vexed area of litigation
  as objections to vaccinations are commonly founded on
  religious or cultural beliefs and/or health considerations.
  Mandatory inoculation policies present a complex balance of
  rights between those employees who hold strong religious,
  health or cultural objections against vaccinations and the
  rights of those who are more susceptible to severe effects or
  even death should they be infected with COVID-19.
- When considering whether to implement a mandatory vaccination policy, employers' must have regard to their individual workplaces and assess whether such a policy is in fact necessary and/or whether the purpose of the policy can be achieved by less imposing measures.



There are no legal restrictions on mandatory vaccination policies. The introduction of such policies will need to be assessed against the principle of reasonableness.

# ARE THERE ANY LEGAL RESTRICTIONS IN SOUTH AFRICA THAT PROHIBIT MANDATORY VACCINATION POLICIES IN THE WORKPLACE?

There are no legal restrictions on mandatory vaccination policies. The introduction of such policies will need to be assessed against the principle of reasonableness. Health and safety litigation at the commencement of lockdown evidenced that the courts are of the view that binding national health and safety guidelines which present a uniformed approach are necessary to protect employees. In addition, the decisive action taken by the government to implement lockdowns and ban international travel indicate the seriousness with which the government has treated the virus and that health and safety is of paramount importance.

# DOES THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A MANDATORY WORKPLACE VACCINATION POLICY CONSTITUTE A UNILATERAL CHANGE TO TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT?

Yes. Employees would therefore need to be consulted prior to implementation.

# WHAT CONSIDERATIONS SHOULD AN EMPLOYER CONTEMPLATE WHEN DETERMINING WHETHER TO IMPLEMENT A MANDATORY VACCINATION POLICY?

When determining whether to implement a mandatory vaccination policy, an employer may wish to consider, amongst others, the following:

- the viability of continued remote work and the effectiveness of social distancing in the workplace;
- (ii) the number of employees required to travel domestically and internationally for work related purposes, particularly if the COVID-19 vaccine is made mandatory for international travel;
- (iii) the number of vulnerable employees in the workplace;
- (iv) the effectiveness of additional PPE, where necessary;
- (v) temporary alternative placements for employees who are vulnerable and/or who have a higher risk of exposure to the virus:
- (vi) the number of employees exposed to the public;
- (vii) the number of employees who are directly/indirectly exposed to persons with COVID-19;
- (viii) the rate of infections and/ or fatalities in the workplace because of COVID-19;
- (ix) the number of employees with religious, cultural and/ or medical objections to inoculation;
- (x) the effectiveness of alternative, less imposing measures to limit the risk of the spread of COVID-19 in the workplace;

- (xi) reports from vaccination programmes around the world; and
- (xii) whether the employer is prepared to subsidise or pay for the vaccination of employees who would not otherwise be in a position to afford the vaccine.

### **OBJECTIONS TO VACCINATION POLICIES**

### ON WHAT GROUNDS MAY AN EMPLOYEE OBJECT TO BEING VACCINATED?

Employees who subscribe to an anti-vaccine ideology are likely to resist mandatory vaccinations in the workplace in broadly two general categories:

- medical objections and safety concerns: employees in high-risk categories who may suffer adverse effects from a vaccine or those having a compromised immune system may object to being vaccinated, where there is no science to the contrary. In addition, employees who have showed no sign of the virus over the period of the pandemic or those who have contracted the virus may also elect not to be vaccinated. Medical objections will need to be assessed thoroughly given adverse reports from vaccination programmes around the world together with the recommendations of medical practitioners;
- religious, cultural or philosophical objections: employees
  may also object to being vaccinated based on the
  incompatibility between their religious or philosophical beliefs
  and vaccination policies. This includes both superstitious
  beliefs and beliefs rooted in the interpretation of religious text.
  In addition, employees may also raise objections to being
  vaccinated because the vaccines may include substances
  such as swine, whose consumption is prohibited for religious
  reasons, or for various other cultural and/or philosophical
  beliefs pertaining to the consumption of animal products or
  the manner in which vaccines are tested.

# WOULD MANDATORY VACCINATIONS CONSTITUTE A GROUND FOR AN EMPLOYEE TO CLAIM CONSTRUCTIVE DISMISSAL WHERE AN EMPLOYER DOES NOT ACCEDE TO THEIR RELIGIOUS OR CULTURAL OBJECTIONS?

For mandatory workplace vaccinations to constitute a constructive dismissal, the employee must show that they had no other option but to resign and that the vaccination policy of the employer rendered continued employment intolerable and was unreasonable.

# SHOULD THE COVID-19 VACCINATION BECOME MANDATORY FOR INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL, WOULD THIS RENDER AN EMPLOYEES' OBJECTION TO BE VACCINATED UNREASONABLE WHERE INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL IS AN INHERENT REQUIREMENT OF THEIR ROLE?

This is a judgement to be made considering the nature of the employee's objection and the importance of international travel for the role performed by the employee. Employers will also need to consider whether there is a suitable alternative role for the employee that does not include international travel or whether such travel may be dispensed with owing to technological developments that allow the employee to perform their functions virtually.

# WHERE AN EMPLOYEE ELECTS NOT TO BE VACCINATED NOTWITHSTANDING DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL BEING AN INHERENT REQUIREMENT OF THEIR ROLE, IF THE VACCINE IS MANDATORY FOR INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL, WHAT OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE TO EMPLOYERS?

- An employer may wish to consider alternative placement and/or continued remote work where possible.
- Where an employee cannot perform their role due to their election not to be vaccinated, and alternative placement and remote work are impossible, an employer may be in a position to dismiss the employee on the following grounds depending on the nature of the circumstances:
  - the inability to perform in line with their employment agreement;
  - · operational requirements;
  - potentially incapacity; or
  - potentially insubordination where the instruction to be vaccinated is reasonable.

# CAN DISMISSAL OR THE EXCLUSION OF AN EMPLOYEE WHO REFUSES A VACCINE FROM THE WORKPLACE AMOUNT TO UNFAIR DISCRIMINATION?

The test is for unfair discrimination and not simply discrimination. In order for the dismissal or exclusion to constitute unfair discrimination, the discrimination would need to be arbitrary, have the ability to impair the dignity of the employee and the instruction to be vaccinated would need to be unreasonable. Whether an employee has been unfairly discriminated against will also depend on whether all suitable alternatives were considered and whether the employer properly considered the employees objections.

# SHOULD A MANDATORY VACCINATION POLICY BE LIMITED TO THOSE EMPLOYEES WHO ARE VULNERABLE, HAVE CONTACT WITH THE PUBLIC AND/OR THOSE EMPLOYEES WHOSE ROLE REQUIRES FREQUENT DOMESTIC AND/OR INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL?

Not necessarily. Many employees who do not fall within these categories may still be susceptible to severe effects of COVID-19 and with the mutation of the virus and the uncertainty pertaining to the science related to the disease, a limitation on this kind may render the vaccination policy ineffective.

## HOW DOES AN EMPLOYER MANAGE RELIGIOUS AND/OR CULTURAL EXEMPTIONS TO BEING VACCINATED?

All objections by employees must be considered on the facts of the case before them, taking into account the evidence produced by the employee for their objection to obtaining the vaccine. The objection of the employee must then be balanced against the risk and impact of COVID-19 in the particular workplace and the rights of all employees to a safe working environment.

### THE IMPACT OF POPI

# WHAT IS THE IMPACT OF THE PROTECTION OF PERSONAL INFORMATION ACT 4 OF 2013 (POPI) ON MANDATORY VACCINATION POLICIES AND THE PROCESSING OF EMPLOYEE MEDICAL INFORMATION?

The provisions of POPI will apply when requesting employees or potential employees to make disclosures regarding their medical or vaccination history, as such information constitutes special personal information for the purposes of POPI and accordingly consent may be mandatory. It does however remain debatable whether an employer may rely on other sources of law, the public interest, or the contract of employment as a basis upon which to process the said special personal information. Information collected, stored and disposed of in this regard, as the case may be, must also be in line with the provisions of POPI.



For mandatory workplace vaccinations to constitute a constructive dismissal, the employee must show that they had no other option but to resign and that the vaccination policy of the employer rendered continued employment intolerable and was unreasonable.

# WHO IN THE ORGANISATION SHOULD MANAGE THE MEDICAL RECORDS OF EMPLOYEES SHOULD A MANDATORY VACCINATION POLICY BE IMPLEMENTED?

- Employers should create a designated team to assist with
  the processing and storage of such information. The team
  responsible should include personnel who understand the
  importance of maintaining the privacy and confidentiality of
  the information. In addition, technological measures must be
  catered for to limit the risk of a security breach.
- It is also important that through the management of employee medical records, or employee consent or objections to vaccinations that employees are not unfairly discriminated against based on their election to comply with a mandatory vaccination policy.

# LIABILITY, POLICY AND FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

WHAT LIABILITY, IF ANY, WOULD AN EMPLOYER SUFFER SHOULD AN EMPLOYEE WHO CONSENTS TO BE VACCINATED IN LINE WITH A WORKPLACE POLICY EXPERIENCE ADVERSE EFFECTS BECAUSE OF BEING VACCINATED?

There are various liability considerations that an employer will need to consider when implementing a mandatory vaccination policy. From a delictual perspective, employers may potentially be liable for mandating employees to be vaccinated who later become ill because of taking the vaccine, provided an employee can prove the element of wrongfulness. This is a complex area which intersects with statutory law.

# WOULD AN EMPLOYER BE LIABLE FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE VACCINATION OF ITS EMPLOYEES WHERE THE EMPLOYEE DOES NOT QUALIFY TO BE VACCINATED BY THE GOVERNMENT OR WHERE A GOVERNMENT VACCINE IS NOT AVAILABLE?

Absent a government subsidy, an employer may need to assist employees financially in obtaining the vaccine should it implement a mandatory vaccination policy and a vaccine is available. This is a particular consideration in relation to lower-level employees who may not otherwise be in a position to afford to be vaccinated without financial assistance. However, employers may provide employees with a day off, in the event that government rolls-out the vaccine free of charge.

#### WHAT IS THE ROLE OF MEDICAL AID PROVIDERS, IF ANY?

Medical aid providers have committed to assisting with the vaccine roll-out once the vaccine becomes available.

# WHAT ARE SOME OF THE POLICY CONSIDERATIONS REGULATORS NEED TO CONSIDER WHEN ISSUING VACCINATION CERTIFICATES?

Regulators will need to consider, among others, these factors:

- The format of the certificate itself, what will make it unique and identifiable?
- Who can issue the certificate? Will it be limited to government, as the vaccine will only be distributed by government for the time being?
- What will a possible exemption process look like, for those who refuse to take the vaccination for religious and/or medical reasons?
- How will government regulate when a vaccination certificate would be necessary, as not everyone will be receiving the vaccination immediately? and
- Will the need for a vaccination certificate in effect force every person to get vaccinated if they can?



Medical aid providers have committed to assisting with the vaccine roll-out once the vaccine becomes available.

# THE INTERPLAY BETWEEN THE OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY ACT 85 OF 1993 (OHSA) AND A MANDATORY VACCINATION POLICY

## WHAT ARE AN EMPLOYER'S OBLIGATIONS IN TERMS OF THE OHSA?

An employer has a duty to do what is reasonably practicable to ensure that the working environment is safe for all employees and those who access their workplace. Whether an employer would then have a duty to impose vaccinations in light of their duty to ensure a safe working environment is dependant on the availability of the vaccine, the cost of the vaccine, the objections of employees, the safety of the vaccine and the effectiveness of other measures employed by the employer to mitigate the risks of infection in the workplace.

### THE NATIONAL HEALTH ACT

## WHAT IMPACT DOES THE NATIONAL HEALTH ACT 61 OF 2003 (NHA) HAVE ON MANDATORY VACCINATION POLICIES?

The NHA makes explicit that any health care related services, medical treatment and medical care must be administered with the consent of the user, who in the current context, would be an employee. Accordingly, employees may only be vaccinated in line with an employer's vaccination policy where they have consented to do so.

#### WHAT DOES CONSENT MEAN FOR PURPOSES OF THE NHA?

In terms of the NHA, consent must meet three requirements. Namely, the consent must be informed, the consent must be specific to the medical treatment/care or services being administered and the consent must be given voluntarily given, free from duress or coercion.

### WHAT IF ANY ARE THE EXCEPTIONS TO THE CONSENT RULE IN THE NHA?

Health care related services may be administered without the consent of the user in the following circumstances:

- Where the law or a competent court has ordered the administration of the health care services; and
- In instances where a failure to administer the health care services would present a "serious public health risk".

# IMPACT OF THE EMPLOYMENT EQUITY ACT 55 OF 1998 (EEA)

## WHAT IS THE IMPACT OF SECTION 7 OF THE EEA ON MANDATORY VACCINATION POLICIES?

Section 7 of the EEA provides for a prohibition on the medical testing of employees save for the following instances:

- where legistlation permits or requires the testing; or
- it is justificable in terms of the medical facts, social policy, employment conditions, the fair distibution of employee benefits or the inherent requirements of the job.

Medical testing refers to both a test or an inquiry to confirm whether an employee has a medical condition. Section 7 of the EEA therefore does not prohibit a mandatory workplace vaccination policy.

### INTERNATIONAL COMPARATORS

### WHAT IS THE POSITION INTERNATIONALLY IN RELATION TO MANDATORY VACCINATION POLICIES?

• There are no prohibitions in the United States, for example, in relation to mandatory vaccination policies. In *Jacobson v Massachusetts*, the American Supreme Court upheld a state law that required compulsory Smallpox vaccinations for adults. The Supreme court held in this judgement that the individuals' rights must yield to state police power in order to preserve public health and safety.



An employer has a duty to do what is reasonably practicable to ensure that the working environment is safe for all employees and those who access their workplace.

- India is an example of a jurisdiction with both present and historic mandatory vaccination legislation. In 1880, the British Government of India passed the Vaccination Act, followed by the Compulsory Vaccination Act in 1892, in response to the Smallpox epidemic. Failure to comply without sufficient cause resulted in jail time. The repeal of these laws was however completed in 2001.
- Another such example is section 2 of the Indian Epidemic
  Diseases Act of 1897 which confers state governments
  with wide ranging executive authority to "take, or require
  or empower any person to take, such measurers and...
  prescribe such temporary regulations to be observed by the
  public or by any person or class of persons as it shall deem
  necessary to prevent the outbreak of such disease or the
  spread thereof".

### WHAT ARE SOME OF THE INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTED GROUNDS FOR OBJECTIONS TO VACCINATIONS?

- In terms of the Americans with Disabilities Act, where an
  employee can evidence a covered disability which would
  make them susceptible to a negative reaction to the
  vaccination, such an objection may be sustained with the
  requisite medical evidence. An employer may however rebut
  these objections by showing that there would be undue
  hardship caused, which may be either financial or health
  related or that the COVID-19 pandemic constitutes "real
  threat" and thus mandatory vaccinations should be enforced.
- Looking again at the Indian context, citizens may resist
  vaccinations on two broad grounds. Firstly, their right to life,
  which extends to the right to refuse medical treatment. The
  right to refuse medical treatment was confirmed in the Indian
  Supreme Court decision of Aruna Shanbaug v Union of India.
  Secondly, on religious grounds, which are protected by the
  Indian Constitution "subject to public order, morality and
  health" (Article 25).

The drafting and implementation of mandatory workplace policies is complex and nuanced and is subject to the conditions in each specific workplace with various topics some general and others more specific to a peculiar workplace or industry. Considered advice is to be sought prior to the drafting and implementation of such policies. As more reports regarding the effects of vaccinations become available, employers must consider the potential risks and liability attached to implementing such policies. It is also unclear at what stage the vaccine will become available in mass and thus the deadlines imposed for mandatory vaccinations will need to be adjusted in line with the vaccine availability and the phased in approach of the vaccine roll out.

Employers should strive to obtain their employees voluntary buy-in as vaccinations by consent rather than compulsion is more likely to be effective. It is always the preferred option for the employer to engage in meaningful consultation with employees and/or their representatives before embarking on any changes that will affect them. Consultation may also be a legal requirement in the imposition of a mandatory policy.

Legal advice should be obtained by an employer as it embarks on the formulation of a mandatory policy and on its implementation. CDH have written extensively on the topic and have also been quoted in the media significantly regarding this.



To access our other resources on the topic, please click here.

### **OUR TEAM**

#### For more information about our Employment Law practice and services in South Africa and Kenya, please contact:

Imraan Mahomed



Aadil Patel
National Practice Head
Director
T +27 (0)11 562 1107
E aadil.patel@cdhlegal.com



T +27 (0)11 562 1459
E imraan.mahomed@cdhlegal.com



**Thabang Rapuleng**Director
T +27 (0)11 562 1759
E thabang.rapuleng@cdhlegal.com



Anli Bezuidenhout Director T +27 (0)21 481 6351 E anli.bezuidenhout@cdhlegal.com



Bongani Masuku Director T +27 (0)11 562 1498 E bongani.masuku@cdhlegal.com



Hedda Schensema Director T +27 (0)11 562 1487 E hedda.schensema@cdhlegal.com



Jose Jorge Director T +27 (0)21 481 6319 E jose.jorge@cdhlegal.com



Phetheni Nkuna Director T +27 (0)11 562 1478 E phetheni.nkuna@cdhlegal.com



Njeri Wagacha Partner | Kenya T +254 731 086 649 +254 204 409 918 +254 710 560 114 E njeri.wagacha@cdhlegal.com



Fiona Leppan
Director
T +27 (0)11 562 1152
E fiona.leppan@cdhlegal.com



Desmond Odhiambo
Partner | Kenya
T +254 731 086 649
+254 204 409 918
+254 710 560 114
E desmond.odhiambo@cdhlegal.com



Michael Yeates
Director
T +27 (0)11 562 1184
E michael.yeates@cdhlegal.com



Gillian Lumb
Director
T +27 (0)21 481 6315
E gillian.lumb@cdhlegal.com



Hugo Pienaar Director T +27 (0)11 562 1350 E hugo.pienaar@cdhlegal.com



Mohsina Chenia Executive Consultant T +27 (0)11 562 1299 E mohsina.chenia@cdhlegal.com

### **OUR TEAM**

#### For more information about our Employment Law practice and services in South Africa and Kenya, please contact:



Faan Coetzee
Executive Consultant
T +27 (0)11 562 1600
E faan.coetzee@cdhlegal.com



**Riola Kok**Professional Support Lawyer
T +27 (0)11 562 1748
E riola.kok@cdhlegal.com



Jaden Cramer Associate T +27 (0)11 562 1260 E jaden.cramer@cdhlegal.com



Jean Ewang Consultant M +27 (0)73 909 1940 E jean.ewang@cdhlegal.com



Sean Jamieson Senior Associate T +27 (0)11 562 1296 E sean.jamieson@cdhlegal.com



**Jordyne Löser** Associate T +27 (0)11 562 1479 E jordyne.loser@cdhlegal.com



Avinash Govindjee Consultant M +27 (0)83 326 5007 E avinash.govindjee@cdhlegal.com



Tamsanqa Mila Senior Associate T +27 (0)11 562 1108 E tamsanqa.mila@cdhlegal.com



Peter Mutema
Associate | Kenya
T +254 731 086 649
+254 204 409 918
+254 710 560 114
E peter.mutema@cdhlegal.com



Asma Cachalia Associate T +27 (0)11 562 1333 E asma.cachalia@cdhlegal.com

#### BBBEE STATUS: LEVEL TWO CONTRIBUTOR

Our BBBEE verification is one of several components of our transformation strategy and we continue to seek ways of improving it in a meaningful manner.

### PLEASE NOTE

This information is published for general information purposes and is not intended to constitute legal advice. Specialist legal advice should always be sought in relation to any particular situation. Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr will accept no responsibility for any actions taken or not taken on the basis of this publication.

#### JOHANNESBURG

1 Protea Place, Sandton, Johannesburg, 2196. Private Bag X40, Benmore, 2010, South Africa. Dx 154 Randburg and Dx 42 Johannesburg. T +27 (0)11 562 1000 F +27 (0)11 562 1111 E jhb@cdhlegal.com

#### **CAPE TOWN**

11 Buitengracht Street, Cape Town, 8001. PO Box 695, Cape Town, 8000, South Africa. Dx 5 Cape Town. T +27 (0)21 481 6300 F +27 (0)21 481 6388 E ctn@cdhlegal.com

#### NAIROBI

#### **STELLENBOSCH**

14 Louw Street, Stellenbosch Central, Stellenbosch, 7600. T +27 (0)21 481 6400 E cdhstellenbosch@cdhlegal.com

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