

Fifth Covid-19 Wave LESS SEVERE due to VACCINATIONS



PLATINUM
HEALTH

South Africa is moving out of the Fifth Covid-19 wave and Platinum Health (PH) is grateful that the Fifth wave has proven to be less severe compared to the previous waves. The table below indicates the marked decrease in members being hospitalised and dying (as a direct result of Covid-19 symptoms) during the Fifth Covid-19 wave, compared to the previous waves. This can be attributed to members being vaccinated, having been exposed to the virus (thus gaining natural immunity), or a combination of both.

	First Wave	Second Wave	Third Wave	Fourth Wave	Fifth Wave
Hospital Admissions	375	384	646	219	69
Deaths	41	38	131	4	3
% of Members Vaccinated	Vaccines not yet available	Vaccinations started on 15 July 2021 and therefore had no effect as it takes a minimum of 21 days (after vaccination) to build immunity.	69% of members vaccinated, but it should be noted that the effectiveness was much lower than 5 th wave due to most people not having received their 2 nd vaccines. Therefore, immunity levels were much lower than in 5 th wave.	73%	

PH would like to thank those members who have been vaccinated and at the same time we encourage those members who qualify to get their Covid-19 booster shots as it provides maximum protection. To those members who have not been vaccinated at all, please don't gamble with your life. You can visit any Covid-19 vaccination site and PH will cover the costs.

Although we are no longer required to wear masks, we should remember that the virus is still circulating. Masks have shown to be helpful in preventing the spread of respiratory diseases.

PH therefore encourages members, especially those who are immunocompromised, to continue wearing masks, especially in indoor settings.

