



The Department of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa avails itself of this opportunity to renew to Diplomatic Missions and International Organisations accredited to the Republic of South Africa the assurances of its highest consideration.



PRETORIA  
19 May 2021

Diplomatic Missions and International Organisations  
accredited to the Republic of South Africa  
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## **COVID-19 CIRCULAR NO 4 OF 2021**

The Department of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa presents its compliments to all Diplomatic Missions and International Organisations accredited to the Republic of South Africa and has the honour to convey the following information regarding the importation of COVID-19 vaccines by Diplomatic Missions.

Foreign Missions may import vaccines via diplomatic bags to vaccinate accredited diplomatic and consular agents and their dependents, as well as locally recruited staff members, the latter on a voluntary basis and at the expense of the Mission. Vaccines that are imported in this manner must have been approved by the regulatory authority of the sending State. Foreign Missions are further requested not to vaccinate Locally Recruited Personnel against their will. Missions should indicate what remedies (including compensation) will be available to Locally Recruited Personnel in the event of an adverse reaction to any vaccines administered by Foreign Missions. Furthermore, locally recruited staff vaccinated in this manner will however not be covered under the No Fault Compensation Fund should they respond adversely to the vaccines. In addition, they will not be reflected on the EVDS as vaccinated under the Covid-19 National Vaccination Programme.

Foreign Missions should inform the Department by way of a Note Verbale should they plan to import COVID-19 vaccines. The Note Verbale should include information regarding the name of the manufacturer of the vaccine, the number of doses, as well as details and contact numbers of the intended recipients. This will assist SAHPRA in reducing its time to verify this information. Missions will also be required to accept full liability for those vaccinated and indemnify the South African Government accordingly. Notes Verbales to be sent to [dejongl@dirco.gov.za](mailto:dejongl@dirco.gov.za).

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