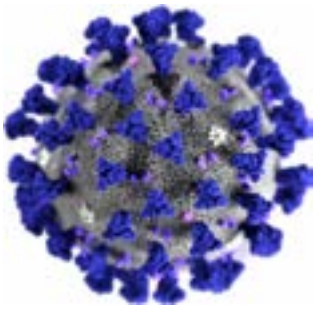
COVID-19
ZIMBABWE FACT SHEET



ABOUT ROOTED IN TRUST

COVID-19 has created chaos and confusion around the world and put vulnerable communities in more danger. Providing accurate and relevant information about COVID-19 prevention, vaccines and new strains is imperative to protect lives of communities around the world that are already suffering from marginalisation, displacements, and insecurity. Rooted in Trust 2.0 is a global pandemic information response program countering the unprecedented scale and speed of the spread of rumours and misinformation. In Zimbabwe Rooted in Trust is working with media, health, and humanitarian actors in ensuring that information disseminated is responsive to needs of communities in Southern Zimbabwe provinces of Matabeleland North, Matabeleland South, Midlands, Masvingo and Bulawayo. Focus is on marginalised communities usually excluded in mainstream media.

WEEKLY RUMOUR

- "The third dose increases immunity, so after the fourth dose you are protected. Once 90% of the population has received the fifth dose, the restrictions can be relaxed as the sixth dose stops the virus from spreading. I am calm and believe that the seventh dose will solve our problems and we have no reason to fear the eighth dose. The clinical phase of the ninth dose confirms that the antibodies remain stable after the tenth dose. The eleventh dose guarantees that no new mutations will develop so there is no longer any reason to criticise the idea of the twelfth dose" (WhatsApp, 23 December 2021)
- "😂 *we will take up to 10 with these variants" (Twitter, 22 December 2021)*

ABOUT BOOSTER VACCINATION GLOBALLY

- The World Health Organisation (WHO) issued an Interim statement on booster doses for Covid-19 vaccination (Statement Available on www.who.int/ news/item/22-12-2021)
- Booster doses are administered to a vaccinated population that has completed a primary vaccination series (currently one or two doses of COVID-19 vaccine depending on the product) when, with time, the immunity and clinical protection has fallen below a rate deemed sufficient in that population. The objective of a booster dose is to restore vaccine effectiveness from that deemed no longer sufficient.
- Additional doses of a vaccine may be needed as part of an extended primary series for target populations where the immune response rate following the standard primary series is deemed insufficient. The objective of an additional dose in the primary series is to enhance the immune response to establish a sufficient level of effectiveness against disease. Immuno compromised individuals often fail to mount a protective immune response after a standard primary series, but also older adults may respond poorly to a standard primary series with some vaccines.
- (WHO) has pointed out the need for epidemiological support when implementing booster doses.

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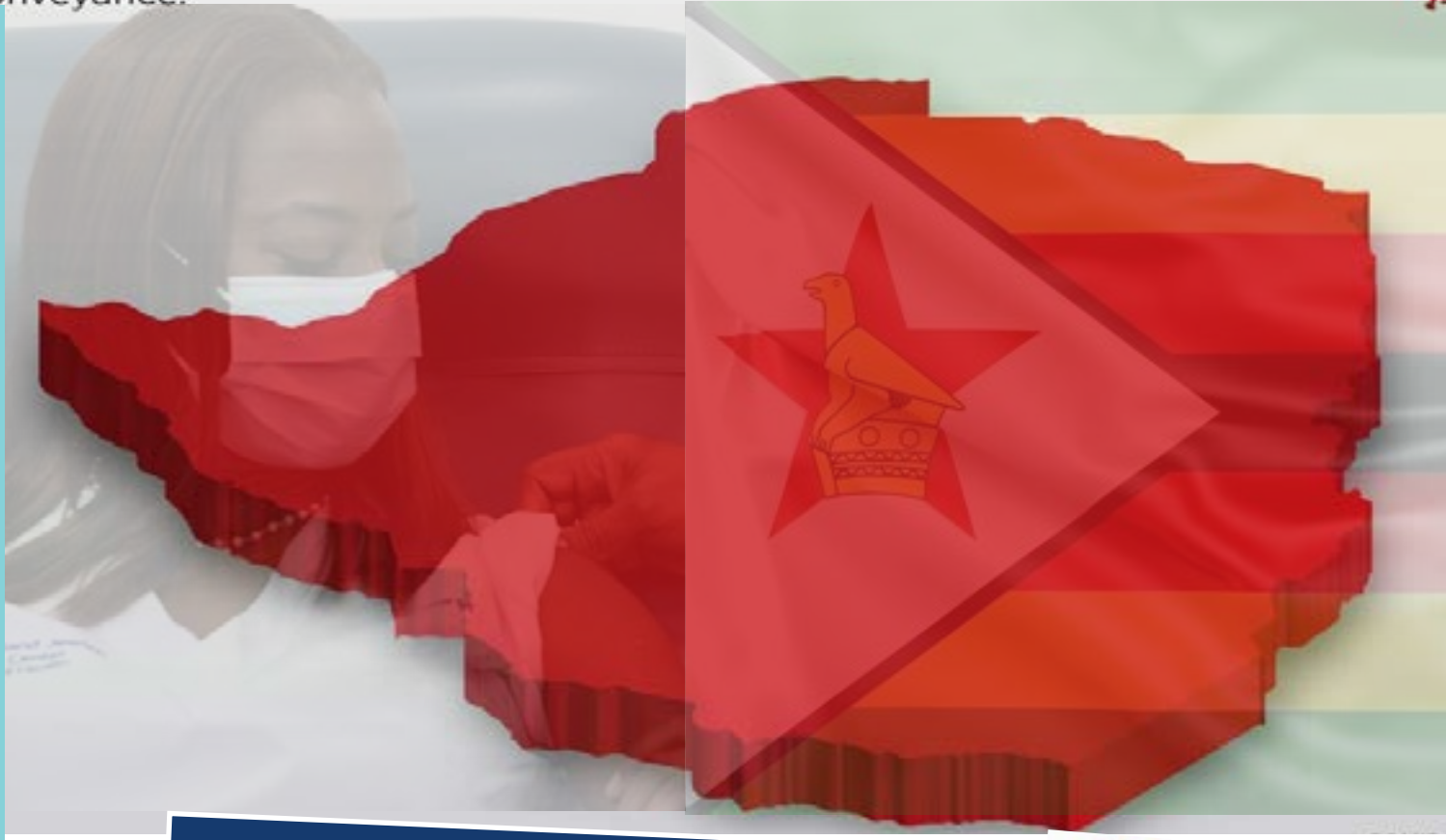

ABOUT BOOSTER VACCINES IN ZIMBABWE

- 3rd of December President Emmerson Mnangagwa, speaking at a National clean up function in Bulawayo, announced that those who wish to get a third vaccination booster can do so.
- 24th of December 2021 the Ministry of Health Child Care (MOHCC) issued a statement on the administering of COVID-19 booster shots beginning with frontline workers.
- The government announced that frontline workers would be eligible for booster shots six months after receiving their second vaccine.
- The 3rd dose booster vaccination proceeds the same vaccine type used for the first and 2nd doses for that individual.
- There has been a low uptake of Covid-19 booster shots in the country with about 3993 doses received so far and only 50 doses administered yesterday (28.12.2021)

INFORMATION GAPS

- Communities need to know who can receive the 3rd booster Jab and the criterion for accessing the booster vaccine.
- Communities need to know if there are specific places where booster vaccines are administered.
- Continue to share with communities relevant Covid-19 safety measures as explained by WHO and MoHCC and keep updating people on latest developments about booster shots and related vaccine developments.

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