

[Friday, 05 June 2026]

[No 9 – 2026] THIRD SESSION, SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

PARLIAMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF THE WESTERN CAPE

QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN REPLY

FRIDAY, 5 JUNE 2026

Mr M Booysen to ask Ms M M Wenger, Minister of Health and Wellness:

- (1) (a) How many influenza vaccine doses were allocated to the province for the (i) 2025 and (ii) 2026 flu season and (b) how many influenza vaccine doses were administered during the (i) 2025 and (ii) current 2026 flu season to date;
- (2) how much was allocated to influenza vaccine doses for the (a) 2025 and (b) 2026 flu season;
- (3) whether any public health facilities experienced shortages of influenza vaccines during the 2025 flu seasons; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (4) what measures (a) did her Department implement during the 2025 flu season and (b) is her Department implementing during the 2026 flu season to encourage influenza vaccination among vulnerable groups?

(212)

RESPONSE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS

(1)(a)(i) 105 000 influenza vaccine doses were procured for the Western Cape for the 2025 influenza season.

(1)(a)(ii) 105 000 influenza vaccine doses were procured for the Western Cape for the 2026 influenza season.

(1)(b)(i) In 2025, 96 178 influenza vaccine doses were administered and recorded on the system, representing 92% utilisation.

(1)(b)(ii) As at 4 June 2026, 72 526 influenza vaccine doses had been administered and recorded on the system, representing 69% utilisation.

The categories captured on the system for annual influenza vaccinations are:

- People aged 65 years and older and residents of old age homes;
- People with chronic medical conditions, including those in rehabilitation centres;
- Healthcare workers;
- HIV and AIDS patients;
- Pregnant women; and
- Other eligible persons.

Members of the public and healthcare workers may also access influenza vaccines through the private sector, particularly where they have medical aid cover.

(2)(a) Please see (1)(a)(i).

(2)(b) Please see (1)(a)(ii).

(3) No public health facilities reported influenza vaccine shortages during the 2025 influenza season.

(4)(a) During the 2025 influenza season, WCDHW implemented facility-based influenza vaccination services in public health facilities, supported by annual circulars and guidance to healthcare workers.

The programme prioritised high-risk groups, including healthcare workers, people aged 65 years and older, residents of old age homes and other chronic care or rehabilitation facilities, people with chronic medical conditions, pregnant women, and HIV-infected persons.

Additional measures included the distribution of information, education and communication material, including posters and pamphlets; targeted encouragement of vaccination among high-risk groups, particularly people with co-morbidities; use of media platforms, including radio and social media at provincial and national level; and monitoring of vaccine uptake and utilisation.

(4)(b) During the 2026 influenza season, WCDHW implemented similar measures in preparation for the 2026 provincial annual influenza vaccinations.

The 2026 programme includes annual guidance to healthcare workers, facility-based vaccination services, distribution of information, education and communication material, and targeted encouragement of vaccination among vulnerable groups.

The 2026 programme also requires district, sub-district and hospital influenza vaccination micro-plans, weekly reporting on vaccine uptake, monitoring of vaccine utilisation and wastage, and district-level communication and social mobilisation activities.

Priority groups include healthcare workers, people aged 65 years and older and residents of old age homes or chronic care facilities, adults and children at high risk of influenza-related complications due to underlying medical conditions, pregnant women, HIV-infected persons, and other eligible individuals who wish to be vaccinated.

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS

DATE