



30 August 2021

UCT Community of Hope Vaccination Centre officially launched

TEXT: Full speech by the VC and extended media quotes by the Premier .	TEXT: Fact sheet on the UCT Community of Hope Vaccination Centre.
IMAGES: A selection of pictures from the official launch of the site.	VIDEO: Full recording of the launch will be available on UCT's YouTube channel .

In supporting efforts by the government to widen access to COVID-19 vaccination, the University of Cape Town (UCT) has partnered with the Western Cape Department of Health (DoH) to launch the UCT Community of Hope Vaccination Centre.

The vaccination site, located at [UCT's Forest Hill residence complex in Mowbray](#), was launched on 30 August and will officially commence operations on 1 September. It is open to all members of the public and at full capacity will administer vaccines to 75 people per hour.

UCT Vice-Chancellor Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng said that when the Western Cape DoH approached the university about the possibility of setting up the facility, it provided an opportunity to serve those who live and work around the university.

"We want our students, staff members and all of community members in our vicinity to have the protection the vaccine provides against the worst possible effects of COVID-19. This new vaccination site is our way of giving back to the local community, by providing the physical space and facilities."

Phakeng added that the name of the facility was carefully thought. "We decided on the UCT Community of Hope Vaccination Centre because we view vaccination as a step towards defeating the pandemic – especially as it is opening so soon after the youth have received the opportunity to get vaccinated. We see this as a practical manifestation of hope."

Premier Alan Winde commended the university for the partnership with the Western Cape Government, which brought into existence the UCT Community of Hope Vaccination Centre.

"The launch of this site will go a long way in supporting students, who typically form part of the 18-34 year-old age group, in getting vaccinated in a safe and convenient setting. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused great loss for many people in the Western Cape.

"Our latest unemployment stats demonstrate specifically how it is young people who are battling to access opportunity during these challenging times. The reality is a successful vaccination programme is an essential foundation of changing this. We cannot grow the economy, open up to the world and create the opportunities we all need, if we keep on having restrictions to protect our healthcare system. That is why vaccinations not only save lives, but jobs too," said Winde.

With the site opening just days after those aged between 18 and 34 became eligible for vaccination, Winde shared an important message for young people.

"To those young people who have not yet been vaccinated – I encourage you to make use of your vaccine opportunity so that we can once again do the things we love, be with the people we love, and go to the places we love."

Western Cape Minister of Health Dr Nomafrench Mbombo noted that it was important that the site will be open to the broader public. "I thank UCT for opening its doors to vaccinate their students, their staff and also opening the facility for the community at large.

"I always say our strength lies in partnerships. We need collaborations that will ensure that we vaccinate many people within a short space of time thus ensuring that we save many lives and we save the fragile health system and the healthcare workers that are on the brink of burn out. It will take the 'Whole of Society' approach to defeat this virus."

The vaccination site will be open every weekday. Its location on the Main Road near the Mowbray Public Transport Interchange, the N2, the university community and the businesses and communities that surround the university makes it easily accessible.

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