

The fourth wave is not over in the Eastern Cape

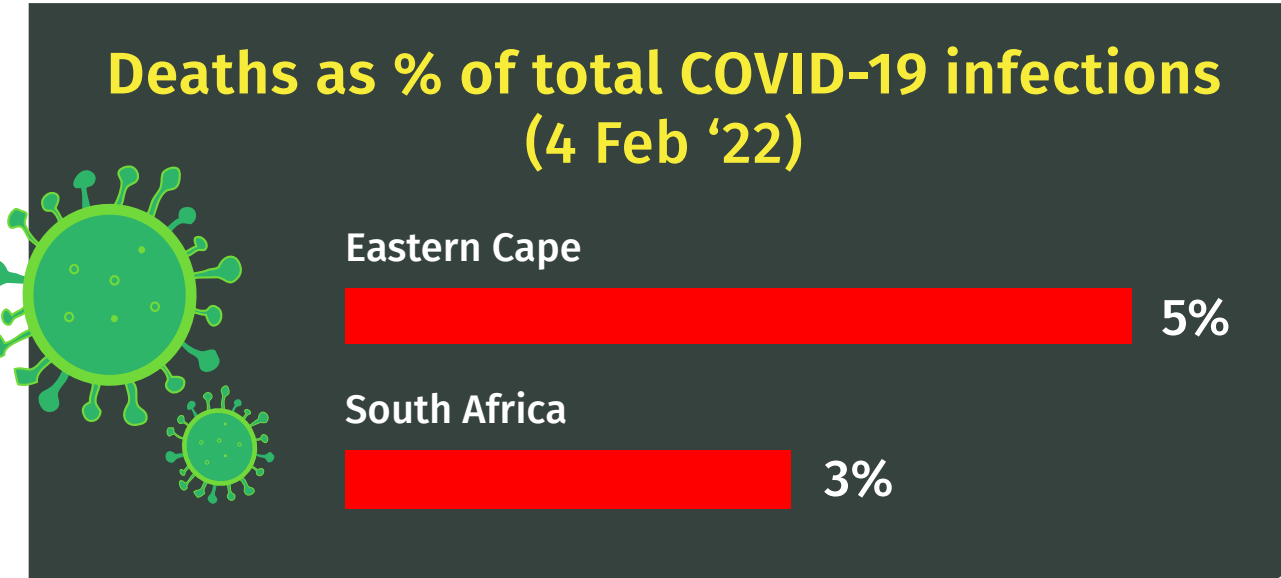
Eastern Cape clinics lack the resources to provide a convenient and reliable vaccination service. Many do not have on-site fridges to store vials safely nor do they have access to cooler boxes and temperature loggers needed to offer mobile vaccination services. Electricity load-shedding has exacerbated the situation.

Even while vaccine acceptance has improved significantly since the start of South Africa's vaccination programme, uptake has remained relatively low. This is largely because accessing vaccination sites is costly and inconvenient, especially for the poor. In this round of Asivikelane Health, 98% of residents said that clinics *should* offer vaccination services afterhours or on weekends.

The Eastern Cape has a large proportion of immunocompromised individuals due to high rates of HIV. As a result, its coronavirus fatality rate is well above the national figure. Because HIV prevalence is higher for women, they are also at greater risk of severe illness due to COVID-19, if unvaccinated. For this reason, vaccination is even more important in the Eastern Cape than elsewhere.

The National and Provincial Departments of Health can have a big impact on vaccination rates with a few short-term interventions:

- Distributing cooler boxes and temperature loggers to clinics,
- Contracting additional staff dedicated to administering vaccinations,
- Offering vaccination services at clinics after hours on week days and on weekends,
- Offering mobile or pop-up vaccination services in communities.



GOOD NEWS

- Clinics have sustained improvements in medicine access since November 2021. **100%** of residents at 23 clinics received the needed **medicine** at their most recent clinic visit.
- **100%** of residents reported that clinics opened on time and they **received the healthcare service** needed at their most recent visit.

HOTSPOTS

- Waiting times were longer than 2 hours in the following clinics: **Potsdam, Needscamp, Mpongo, Openshaw, Qhuru, Ngqeleni, Philani** and **Nkumandeni**.
- At several clinics residents spent more than 3 hours of their day waiting, namely: **Potsdam, Mpongo, Openshaw, Ngqeleni, Philani** and **Nkumandeni**.

DATA NOTE: 247 residents from across the OR Tambo and Buffalo City Health Districts were interviewed for Asivikelane Health #7 in the last week of January 2022. 90% of participants are female. Detailed results and comments from residents are available at www.asivikelane.org/health. For more information please contact: info@asivikelane.org or kaugust@spf.org.za Facebook: @smallprojectsfoundation Instagram: @spfinfo Twitter: @FoundationSmall website: www.spf.org.za

AT YOUR MOST RECENT CLINIC VISIT IN THE LAST MONTH...

CLINIC NAME	...WERE YOU SEEN WITHIN 2 HOURS BY A HEALTH CARE PROVIDER?	...DID YOU SPEND LESS THAN 3 HOURS IN TOTAL AT THE CLINIC?	...WERE COVID-19 VACCINATIONS AVAILABLE AFTERHOURS OR ON WEEKENDS?
THEMBALETHU	●	●	●
NEULANDS	●	●	●
POTSDAM	●	●	●
NEEDSCAMP	●	●	●
NCERA	●	●	●
MPONGO	●	●	●
TWECU	●	●	●
OPENSHAW	●	●	●
ZIKHOVA	●	●	●
MASIPHILE	●	●	●
QHURU	●	●	●
MNCOTSHO	●	●	●
ILITHA	●	●	●
TSHABO	●	●	●
BERLIN	●	●	●
NGQELENI	●	●	●
PHILANI	●	●	●
BUNTINGVILLE	●	●	●
MAQANYENI	●	●	●
NKUMANDENI	●	●	●
NTIBANE	●	●	●
NQANDA	●	●	●
CANZIBE	●	●	●
NTAPHANE	●	●	●
LUJIZWENI	●	●	●

Respondents that said YES: 60% or less, 61 – 75%, 75 – 89%, 90% or more