

## VACCINATIONS

# Adolescent jabs: Province will deal with any court challenges

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THE Western Cape will deal with any possible court challenge brought against it around adolescents between the ages of 12 and 17 getting vaccinated against Covid-19 without parental consent, if such a case emerged.

Health Minister Joe Phaahla's recent announcement that adolescents aged 12 to 17 can visit government and private vaccination sites without their parents' consent has sparked at least one threat of court action.

Premier Alan Winde said so far the Province's legal team had not received anything to do with such a case.

As to whether the Province would be ready for a case if one arose, Winde said: "We have a legal team and should a case come we will have to look at it and decide accordingly. Thus far we have not heard anything, at least not that I am aware of."

Winde was speaking at the provincial update on the health platform and vaccination programme.

Elsewhere, UCT Children's Institute child rights expert Lucy Jamieson said: "The law tries to balance giving children autonomy and protecting them from burdensome decisions by requiring parents, caregivers or other adults to support them."

"Even though adolescents can choose for themselves, it is important for parents and caregivers to listen to their children and discuss the risks and benefits," Jamieson said.

Nationally it is estimated this cohort will add another 6 million eligible people to the vaccination pool and as from Wednesday this week, members of the age group started visiting vaccination centres across the country for their jabs. The Western Cape was no exception.

Head of Health Dr Keith Cloete said members of the cohort had started arriving at sites across the province



THE Province said it is prepared to challenge any legal action resulting from the vaccination of 12 to 17 year olds. Dr Keith Cloete and Premier Alan Winde. | AYANDA NDAMANE African News Agency (ANA)

"mainly with parental consent, to be vaccinated, signed by their parents who are bringing them."

"The 12 to 17-year-olds system is open and people have registered on EVDS. By Wednesday, we had seen 10 589 registrations from this cohort."

"The age group makes up 667 000 of the Western Cape population and can access service at any vaccination site," said Dr Cloete.

He said the age group is not a

priority target group and the vaccination programme would not be school-based. With regards to infections, the Western Cape is currently seeing an average of around 127 new diagnoses, 31 new admissions and six deaths each day.

Dr Cloete said that overall, there was a 28% week-on-week decrease in cases in the Metro with almost all areas showing a decrease in case numbers, with the exception being the Eastern

districts. However, he said the absolute number of cases there remains very small.

Meanwhile, in a review of the impact of the third wave compared to previous waves, the provincial Health Department's findings showed that over a 12-week period during the third wave, people aged 50 years and older accounted for 30% of cases, 60% of hospital admissions and 83% of deaths.

## SERVICE

## Displeasure over delayed smelly waste collections

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RESIDENTS in Plumstead, Fairways and Wynberg are upset over the delayed waste collections and have called on the City's Solid Waste Department to address the ongoing issue with more urgency.

Residents said apart from unsavoury altercations with bin-pickers, the stench emanating from the bins was unbearable and often travelled through the neighbourhoods with the sun beating down on the open bins this week. A senior Plumstead resident, who did not want to be named, said this was the third week in a row the collection truck was late and bin-pickers had been having a field day "leaving a stench to high heaven with the mess that they left behind".

The resident said the late hour they were requested to leave their bins outside until collection was disconcerting as she was a senior citizen and had difficulty moving the wheelie bin at night because she walked with a walking stick.

"From what I understand from the Solid Waste Department for this area, there are 30 trucks of which eight are currently operating, and the remaining 22 are out of action due to maintenance. This is a high ratio of working versus non-working trucks."

Fairways resident Washiela Maged said: "We have such a problem with bin-pickers and a lot of them are aggressive. They are rude, they take what they want then turn your bin over and leave what they don't want in a complete state."

After it was previously said that the refuse collection delays and backlogs were the result of Covid-19 infections, Wynberg resident Joy Gardener said it made no sense that refuse collectors still refused to wear their masks properly when on the job.

Ursula Schenker, a Plumstead community activist and independent candidate councillor for ward 63, said she feels for the residents having to bear the brunt of the City's inability to ensure the provision of services to communities in a sustainable manner.

Water and waste mayco member Xanthea Limberg said residents should be aware that there may be delays in the refuse collection service due to vehicle availability. "All efforts are in place to ensure that the turnaround time for vehicle repairs is shortened. This includes constant follow-up with relevant service providers and quality-assuring any repairs," said Limberg.



PUPILS have taken a liking to marine sciences, a subject piloted at schools at the start of the year.

## EXPOSED

## Estate agent suspended over 'race-specific' request

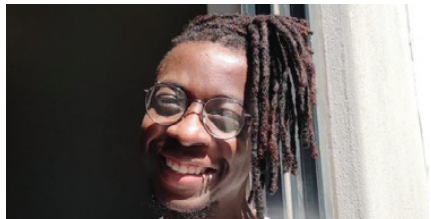
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A LOCAL estate agent was suspended by her agency after she refused to proceed with a viewing of a property by a person of colour, because the owner of the property had a "race-specific" request.

Live Real estate agent Gabriella Johnson refused to proceed with a viewing and application process for the R17 000 Fountain Suites apartment in the Cape Town CBD, stating that the client was "race-specific", and the inquirer, Pol Osei, 26, black.

Live Real Estate chief executive Brendan Miller said Johnson had since been suspended.

"We are following the legal route as dictated by the relevant labour laws. She will most likely be dismissed at



Pol Osei

the earliest opportunity, pending her internal hearing."

Miller said Osei had been advised on the steps to take to report Johnson and the landlord to the Estate Agency Affairs Board, and is being assisted to find alternative accommodation.

"With regards to the landlord, we did not have a contract as the property was not listed with Live Real Estate. We have reached out to Gabriella's pre-

vious agency and we are working on expanding guidelines for other estate agents to also implement in order to prevent anything like this from happening ever again," said Miller.

Following public outrage and many people sharing similar experiences, Osei said this seemed to be common in the industry.

"I'm using this experience to catapult this issue that many have and are struggling with into the national spotlight. I will launch a complaint at every board and governing body attached to this industry, and I am approaching the Equality Court and the Human Rights Commission as I have been categorically denied access to housing, a basic human right, because of the skin colour I was born with," said Osei.

Social Justice Agency managing

director Edwin Cleophas said incidents such as this garnered media attention "as it now exposed the well-organised white supremacist system".

"The system operates with ease because white solidarity ensures that the system and individuals benefiting from it won't expose the system. And yes, it is a very common practice."

"However, every now and then somebody with less experience on how to play their part, drops something and then we are able to expose incidents, moments, events, but we should remember that this problem is systemic and institutionalised and therefore there are groups that hold power over this that can and should be held accountable for this."

Johnson has since issued an apology on Facebook and could not be reached for further comment.

## EDUCATION

## First cohort of matrices ready to write marine sciences

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THE first batch of matriculants who started taking marine sciences as a subject last year will be writing exams on the subject for the first time.

Marine sciences was launched as a pilot project two years ago in the Western Cape and has become a fully

fledged subject that pupils can choose.

Western Cape Education Department (WCED) spokesperson Bronagh Hammond said that in January 2019, the Two Oceans Aquarium, in partnership with Gansbaai Academia, Simon's Town High and South Peninsula High, launched marine sciences as a new pilot subject.

Hammond said in July 2019,

marine sciences was officially gazetted and has been Umalusi approved. Training was conducted in 2019.

She said the marine sciences pilot subject was launched as part of the Grade 10 curriculum. It was offered as an extra subject on two afternoons per week at the node schools, and that was a first for South Africa and Africa.

"The first cohort of learners are

writing the NSC exam this year. There are 12 learners writing in the Western Cape," said Hammond.

Russell Stevens, head of education at the Two Oceans Aquarium, said that it was a significant milestone in the work towards the development of a subject which would eventually be implemented in schools across the country.

## HEALTH CARE

## One in five African adolescents uses tobacco, says WHO report

RAPID population growth, increased advertising by the tobacco industry and growing consumption among young people in Africa are contributing to a projected massive tobacco-related burden of disease, according to the World Health Organization.

The global health authority estimates that one in five African adolescents uses tobacco, and forecasts a doubling of deaths related to tobacco use in low- and middle-income countries between 2002 and 2030.

Writing in *The Conversation* publication and citing the UN report among others, Corné van Walbeek, the principal investigator of the economics of tobacco control project at the UCT and Zunda Chishwa, a research officer at the same institute, said efforts were being made to prevent these unnecessary

deaths.

They cited the Africa Conference on Tobacco Control and Development set for October 26-28 which aims to connect researchers, policymakers, advocates, students and members of the public who are interested in tobacco control on the continent.

According to Van Walbeek and Chishwa, 51 of Africa's 54 countries have ratified the WHO framework convention on tobacco control. The exceptions are Malawi, South Sudan and Eritrea.

WHO says globally, between 1 million and 1.2 million deaths annually are related to exposure to second-hand smoke. Thirteen African countries have smoke-free bans, joining more than 50 other countries around the world.

| African News Agency (ANA)



### Epping City Improvement District NPC

Company Registration no. 2001/028149/08

#### Notice Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The Epping City Improvement District NPC (ECID) will be hosting an AGM. All stakeholders are invited to a review of the year's activities and approval of the extension of the CID term and planning for 2022/23.

Due to COVID-19 and the possibility of level changes, please refer to the website for further guidance on AGM meeting procedures.

Date: 18 November 2021

Time: 14h00

Venue: 24 Gunners Circle, Epping 1

Resolutions presented at the Members meeting can only be voted on by bona fide members of the ECID. This membership is available free of charge to all owners of non-residential property within the ECID footprint, but they must be registered before 11 November 2021.

For further information, documentation and how to register go to [www.ecid.org.za](http://www.ecid.org.za) or e-mail [lizette@ecid.org.za](mailto:lizette@ecid.org.za) or call 021 535 5814



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#### NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Little Mowbray and Rosebank Improvement District NPC (LMRID) will be holding its Annual General Meeting (AGM). All stakeholders are invited to a review of the year's activities and planning for 2022-2023.

Due to COVID-19 and the possibility of level changes, please refer to the website for further guidance on AGM meeting procedure.

Date: Thursday 18th November, 2021

Time: 18h00 (registration for meeting), 18h30 (meeting commence)

Venue: Mossop Hall, cnr Cheltenham and Roseberry Roads, Little Mowbray.

Resolutions presented at the AGM may only be voted on by bona fide members of the LMRID. Membership is free of charge to all owners of non-residential and/or residential property within the LMRID, but they must be registered before 11th November, 2021.

For further information regarding AGM documentation and how to register: [www.lmrid.capetown](http://www.lmrid.capetown), email: [info@lmrid.capetown](mailto:info@lmrid.capetown) or phone 08610 56743

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