



BUSINESS FOR SA | COVID-19

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21 July 2021

Dear colleagues

As Business for South Africa (B4SA), the Independent Community Pharmacy Association (ICPA), the Unity Forum for Family Practitioners (UFFP), and the South African Private Practitioners Association (SAPPF), we are extremely concerned about the looting of pharmacies, GP practices and medical centres in some areas of KZN and Gauteng. Especially concerning is the theft of potentially dangerous controlled substances, medicines and some vaccines, and the possibility that these could be illegally offered up for sale and endanger people's health.

We would like to ask you, as medical professionals, to remind your patients and communities to only buy or receive medication from registered medical professionals, accredited pharmacies or medical facilities, and to only receive vaccines administered at registered vaccination sites. Stolen vaccines will not have been stored under the correct conditions, and could be dangerous, and medications that are not properly dispensed, as you well know, could cause serious harm.

1. If you become aware of any controlled substances, medicines or vaccines for sale outside of authorised healthcare institutions or vaccine sites, please urgently notify the authorities at SA Health Products Regulatory Authority (SAHPRA) on mokgadi.fafudi@sahpra.org.za or call your local police station.
2. We have also asked community members to deposit any looted or stolen medication or vaccine to any pharmacy, GP or health care facility, so that it can be disposed of properly.

As B4SA, ICPA, UFFP and SAPPF, in partnership with the National Department of Health, we are working hard to bring pharmacies, and health care facilities in affected areas back online. This is a priority, not only to ensure people have access to life-saving medication, but also to ensure that we are able to continue to ramp up the vaccination of our nation.

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