PARTICIPANT INFORMATION LEAFLET (ENGLISH)

Sisonke Boost Open Label Study (VAC31518COV30XX) (Sisonke 2)

Each **participant** must read and understand this document **before** consenting to join.

This is an open-label, single-arm phase 3B study to monitor the effectiveness of the single dose Ad26.COV2.S COVID-19 (Janssen) vaccine boost among Sisonke participants in South Africa.

Sponsor: South African Medical Research Council
Francie van Zijl Drive, Parowvallei, Cape Town; 7505 Tygerberg, South Africa

You are a participant in a research study called SISONKE Boost (Sisonke 2). We are inviting you to participate in the Sisonke Boost 3B Study (Sisonke 2).

South Africa is severely affected by the global COVID-19 epidemic. We have recently confirmed that the single dose Janssen Covid-19 vaccine worked very well to prevent severe COVID-19, hospitalisation and death in people who received the vaccine. Recent data has suggested that after 6 months there may be a waning of the vaccine effectiveness of the COVID-19 vaccines. We are therefore offering a booster dose of the Janssen (Ad26.COV2.S) Covid-19 vaccine to Sisonke participants to boost their immunity against SARS.CoV2. This vaccine has now had emergency use approval granted by FDA (USA), the European Authorities, SAHPRA and the WHO, but policy on boosting in South Africa is still being considered.

Participant Information Sheet

Please take time to read the following information carefully. Discuss it with friends and relatives if you wish. Take time to decide whether or not you wish to take part.

- You are free to decide whether or not to take part in this study. If you choose not to take part, this will not affect the care you get from your own doctors in any way.
- You can stop taking part in the study at any time, without giving a reason.
- Ask us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information.
- Thank you for reading this information. If you decide to take part in the study, you will be asked to consent to take part.
- Your participation in this study will be up to 2 years.
- Thank you for taking the time to consider this study. You can read more about Sisonke 2 at: http://sisonkestudy.samrc.ac.za/

Important things that you need to know

- Our main objectives are to find out two things:
  - the effectiveness of the booster vaccine to further prevent severe disease and death from COVID19 in Sisonke participants.
  - The ongoing safety of a boost strategy of this COVID vaccine in Sisonke participants.
- **This is an open label study: that means everyone in this study will receive a single booster dose of the Ad26.COV2S COVID-19 vaccine. <u>There is no placebo.</u>**

- The most common side effect for any COVID-19 vaccine is that the injection site may be red, swollen and feel sore for a day or two.
- There may also be symptoms of "reactogenicity", e.g. fever, fatigue for 1-2 days. There has not been evidence that this is increased following boost vaccination with this vaccine.
- The study will fit into your normal schedule and there are no scheduled visits after vaccination.
- You will be in the study for up to 2 years.

1 Why are we doing this study?

This study is carried out to see the effectiveness of a booster dose of Ad26 Covid Vaccine to prevent or reduce the severity of COVID-19 in Sisonke participants in a "real world" setting over a longer duration.

What is COVID-19?

A new coronavirus pandemic is sweeping the world and is called COVID-19. This is caused by infection with a virus called SARS-CoV-2. The illness is usually mild, but it can cause a severe chest infection (pneumonia) or death in some people. If you want to know more about COVID-19, please look at the World Health Organisation (WHO) website: https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/

How is COVID-19 usually prevented?

Although some drugs reduce the severity of COVID-19 in hospital patients, COVID-19 vaccines have been shown to prevent severe disease and death. Physical distancing, personal protective equipment, quarantine and infection control measures are other interventions currently available here in South Africa.

What are we trying to find out?

We want to find out the following:

- Whether Sisonke participants who do get infected experience a milder disease if they have received the Ad26 booster vaccine.
- Whether we see less COVID infections in participants who have been booster vaccinated.
- Ongoing safety of this booster vaccine

2 Why am I being asked to take part?

You are being asked to take part in the Sisonke booster study because you are a Sisonke participant who may continue to be at high risk of being exposed to COVID-19 and may therefore catch the disease. You may wish to have your immunity boosted.

Do I have to take part?

No, joining the study is voluntary; it is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you decide to take part, you can ask for this information sheet (or other Sisonke material) or read it on the web site. Before participation you will be asked to consent to the study.

You may choose to not participate in this study, in which case you will not lose access to any other medical care or other benefits already available to you.

3 What do I need to know about the vaccine used in this study?

Booster vaccines are still being considered by both the National Dept of Health and SAHPRA and are not yet available. More booster options may be available in the future. These may involve other available vaccines. This study will help the national health department decide on their

boosting strategy. This study has been approved by the regulatory authorities.
We saw excellent effectiveness against the combined outcome of severe disease, hospitalisation and death (85%) in the first 5 months of the Sisonke study.
The vaccine, although protective against severe disease and hospitalisation in all regions of the world, was found to have less impact on other milder forms of disease because of new circulating virus variants, such as Beta variant of concern in South Africa. We were able to show equal effectiveness of this vaccine against the delta and beta variants in Sisonke 1.
A study was recently completed of a two dose JnJ regimen which showed excellent effectiveness and no safety issues with the second vaccine dose. This study was known as Ensemble 2.

The COVID-19 vaccines cannot give you COVID. When the vaccine is injected into your body, a small component of genetic material from SARS-CoV-2 gets "translated" to produce so called 'spike proteins' which are small bits of protein specific to SARS-CoV-2. Our bodies then make an immune response against these spike proteins. This immune response is our body's way of fighting the infection. You cannot contract COVID-19 from the vaccine. A booster vaccine works in a similar way but re-boosts the immunity. Studies done show that antibodies and other parts of the immune system increase after the booster dose.

4 What will I need to do if I take part?

This is an open-label single arm study. That means that you will receive a single booster shot of the Ad26 vaccine. There is no placebo. You must be a prior Sisonke participant, aged 18 years or older, have registered on the national vaccine site, and be willing to attend one of the vaccination centres or research sites to receive your booster vaccination. We would also require your permission to collect hospital and laboratory information from national and medical databases such as but not only NICD, NHLS, DATCOV and the EVDS to understand adverse events or break through infections. We may also need to contact a health provider or hospital looking after you in the event of a vaccine related side effect or break through infection for the period of the study.

Can I definitely take part?

Not everyone will be able to take part in this program. We need you to answer some questions first and then give electronic consent.
You need to be over 18 years and a Sisonke participant. You must not have had any other booster vaccination with any of the COVID-19 vaccines to date.
Pregnant and breast-feeding women can participate.

There are some previous medical conditions which if you have we would like you to consult with your health care provider, consult with the site research staff and/or call the number below and inform the vaccine centre where you attend prior to vaccination:

If you have had a very severe reaction to a vaccination before;
If you had a neurological abnormality following vaccination;

If you have had a severe clotting disorder for example:

- cerebral venous sinus thrombosis, (clotting in the brain)
- antiphospholipid syndrome (unusual blood disorders)
- you are on chronic anticoagulation medication, e.g. warfarin.

- You had a clotting disorder, e.g. deep vein thrombosis, pulmonary embolus or cerebrovascular accident following your initial JnJ vaccination.

These health issues may mean we would like to consult with you, offer more intense follow up and/or advise your vaccination boost options accordingly. Please contact the Sisonke safety desk for more information.

If you have a history of thrombocytopenic thrombosis (clotting) with a previous COVID-19 vaccine or have had heparin-induced thrombocytopenia then you should NOT receive this vaccine again. Please contact the study team.

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If you have a recent infection or are unwell, you may be asked to wait a few weeks prior to your booster vaccination.

You will be asked to inform the research staff:

- If you have received another vaccination in the previous 30 days. This may not be a problem but it is important to let us know. We recommend a 14–28-day window between vaccinations.

You will also need to agree to allow access to your healthcare records to 1) confirm medical data related to participation if necessary, or 2) to contact us on the number below if you are admitted to hospital during the study or become ill so we can collect study follow-up information.

What if I am immunocompromised or living with HIV?

- If you are uncertain of your HIV status or have not had an HIV test within the past 12 months we would encourage you to test for HIV for your own health. We do not need to access this test result. While this vaccine is safe for people living with HIV who are not severely immunocompromised, it is important that you know your status prior to joining this trial. If you need information about where you can get tested for HIV, we will provide you with this information. If you know you live with HIV and are on treatment, please let us know. This is not a contraindication to being booster vaccinated.

What if I have allergies?

You could have an allergic reaction to a vaccine, including a rash, hives, or difficulty breathing. Some allergic reactions can be life-threatening. The study staff will watch you for at least 15-30 minutes after each injection. We have not seen reports of an increase in allergy in boosting with this vaccine.

If you have ever had a bad reaction to any injection or vaccine, please contact the Sisonke safety desk. They may give you medicines in the clinic to treat serious allergic reactions. If you think you're having a severe allergic reaction after you leave the study site, contact the emergency number on the vaccination card (given below) and get medical help right away.

What if the questions show I can take part?

Before you can enter the study, you will need to complete a questionnaire about your health to make sure that this vaccine booster is suitable for you.

If your answers to the questions show you can take part and you agree to join the Sisonke 2 Study, we will ask you to sign an online consent form. You will not be able to join the study without a signed consent.

What will happen to me during the study?

Once your suitability in the study is confirmed, and you have signed the eConsent you will be given the booster vaccination. Data will be collected using routine data sources form the National

Department of Health and other COVID databases by linking your ID/passport national number, name and other locator information for up to 2 years after receiving the vaccination. If you develop COVID-19 and want to take part in a treatment study, you can do it, but we would like you to inform the study team to ensure your safety and best possible care. We may check your medical and laboratory records if we are alerted to possible breakthrough COVID infection. We ask that if you need routine care, you also mention to your provider that you have been on the Sisonke 2 Study.

What checks and tests will be done?

Prior to boosting:

Let us know if you have health concerns.

It is particularly important that if you have a previous history of cerebral venous sinus thrombosis, antiphospholipid syndrome, had a clotting event after your first Janssen Covid-19 vaccine, are on chronic anticoagulation therapy or have severe allergy following vaccination we would like you to call the number below or ask to speak with the research team associated with your vaccine centre.

This is because we would like to have experts consult on whether it is safe for you to be vaccinated and to advise best procedures to do so. You will also be carefully followed up, should you be vaccinated.

-This is for your own safety.

After Boosting:

If you develop side effects or health problems, please alert the Sisonke Safety desk.

During the next few months, if you develop symptoms of COVID-19, including cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever, chills, muscle pains, sore throat, or new loss of taste or smell we advise you to follow the NICD guidance and seek care/ advice from your health care provider. Also please alert the Sisonke safety desk of any confirmed break through infection.

We will be analysing the information we receive regularly throughout the study. If there is clear evidence that the risks outweigh the benefits, we will stop the study early.

Will I get paid to take part?

There is no reimbursement for joining this study.

5 What are the possible side-effects?

What are the most common side-effects?

Pain, tenderness and redness at the injection site, itching, rash, headache, chills, joint pain, muscle pain, tiredness, generally not feeling well, nausea and fever have been seen with this vaccine. These reactions usually start within 1 to 2 days after the injection and most of the reactions get better within 1 to 3 days. These have not been found to be worse after booster vaccination with this vaccine.

Are there serious side-effects?

It is rare for anyone to have a serious allergic reaction to a vaccine. If this does happen, it usually happens within minutes. The person who vaccinates you will be trained to deal with allergic reactions and treat them immediately. Even in cases of severe allergy, participants usually make a full recovery.

The COVID-19 vaccines have now been administered to many millions of individuals. There is also increasing evidence of their safety as a booster dose.

Another very rare, possibly related serious side effect has recently come to light

through international vaccination programs. This is the unusual medical situation where thrombosis (clotting) occurs in major blood vessels in the presence of a low platelet count (platelets are a part of our blood system that helps with clotting). The condition has become known as vaccine induced thrombocytopenic thrombosis or TSS.
This is exceedingly rare but cases have been documented in association with some COVID-19 vaccines including the Janssen Covid-19 vaccine you have received in Sisonke and the booster vaccination you may now receive. Cases of the rare clotting syndrome have occurred within 4-20 days of vaccination (median 8 days).
It is important that if you develop any of the following symptoms during this period after vaccination we advise that you seek care **urgently**, advise your doctor that you have recently been vaccinated with the Janssen Ad26 vaccine and **ask them to contact the Sisonke desk on 0800 014 956.**

Symptoms that should prompt you to seek care in this period include:

- new onset seizures; or weakness in a limb
- severe dizziness
- severe unrelenting blinding headaches with vomiting
- severe abdominal pain associated with vomiting
- blurred vision
- breathlessness
- pain in the chest or stomach
- swelling or coldness in a leg,
- persistent bleeding
- multiple small bruises
- new leg pain reddish and/or purplish spots, or blood blisters under the skin.

When seeking medical care, please ask your practitioner to make immediate contact with the Sisonke desk, send off a blood test to check platelet count and **avoid heparin** until a diagnosis has been established.

There may be other risks associated with Ad26.COV2.S that we don't know about yet. If we learn new information about the vaccine and risks associated with it, we will tell you.

Please remember that we request you to report any side effects or serious medical conditions that occur after vaccination. The Sisonke safety desk will also send you an SMS after boost vaccination to remind you.

If you become concerned about any side-effects, please call the number on your vaccination card and listed below as soon as possible.

Pregnancy and Breast Feeding

If you are pregnant, you may be enrolled and vaccinated. You may also be vaccinated if breast feeding.

If you suspect that you have become pregnant within 3 months of receiving the vaccine, please notify the Sisonke safety desk. The Sisonke team will collect data about the wellbeing of your pregnancy and baby after birth. The vaccine is safe to use in women who are breastfeeding for both mother and baby.

6 What are the possible benefits of taking part in this study?

The information we get from this study will help us understand COVID-19 vaccines as boosters and their effectiveness in South Africa.
You will receive access to an emergency use of this vaccine as a booster while we are awaiting further approval. The single-

dose Ad26.COV2.S vaccine regimen has been shown to be 64% effective overall in South Africa and 85% effective overall in preventing severe disease by Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus-2 (SARS-CoV-2). We found very similar results in Sisonke Study out to at least 5 months. This vaccine also demonstrated excellent protection against COVID-19-related deaths as from 28 days after receiving the vaccine. Ensemble 2 study has shown a boost after two months with Ad26.SARSCoV2.S vaccine is safe, works well in the field and boost immunity well.
We are offering this booster dose now because we know Sisonke participants were vaccinated some time ago and are highly exposed to SARS.CoV2 due to their line of work.

You may choose to wait until the SAHPRA approves the use of booster doses. Other vaccines may be approved for boosting then as well.

7 What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?

We are unaware of any disadvantages to taking part in this study. Whilst there is a risk of study participation disclosure at the time of booster vaccination, all data will be anonymised before reporting.

8 More information about taking part

Who is organising and funding the Sisonke Boost study?

The study is funded by the SA MRC and National Dept of Health. The vaccines have been supplied by Johnson and Johnson.
The principal investigators (PI) are not receiving any money or other payment for asking you to be part. As local representative of the international sponsor, the SA Medical Research Council has overall responsibility for the conduct of the studying South Africa. The SAMRC is responsible for ensuring the study is carried out ethically and in the best interests of the study participants.

What are your choices about how your information is used?

You can stop being part of the study at any time, without giving a reason. A decision to stop taking part at any time will not affect the standard of care you receive if you become ill.

How will we use information about you?

We may need to use information related to COVID19 from your medical records, your hospital and/or your healthcare provider/laboratory if you develop a side effect or have an infection. This information will include where appropriate, your ID number, name, date of birth, postcode, contact details and healthcare information related to this study. We are not allowed to gather information about you that does not directly inform this study. Only people directly linked to the study will use this information to do the research or ethics/regulatory officials may want to check our records to make sure that the research is being done properly. People who do not need to know who you are will not be able to see your name or contact details.

We will keep all information about you safe and secure. Some of your information will be shared with researchers from other countries. This includes researchers who might request use of your anonymous study information after the study is complete. This will only occur with permission from ethics committees.

We will write our reports in a way that no-one can work out that you took part in the study.

What will happen to the results of the Sisonke Boost study?

We will publish a summary of the results. We will also publish the results in a medical journal, so that other doctors can see them. You can ask the study team for a copy of any publication. Your identity and any personal details will be kept confidential. No named information about you will be published in any report of this study.

Who has reviewed the Sisonke Boost study?

The study has been approved by all relevant Clinical research committees and written approval has been granted by those committees.

It has been authorised by the South African Health Products Regulatory Authority (SAHPRA).

The study has been structured in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki (last updated: October 2013), which deals with the recommendations guiding doctors in biomedical research involving human participants. A copy may be obtained from the PI if you wish to review it.

What if new information becomes available during the course of the study?

Sometimes during a study, new information becomes available about the vaccines that are being studied. If this happens, the research team will tell you about it.

What happens if the Sisonke study stops early?

Very occasionally a study is stopped early. If it happens, the reasons will be explained to you.

What if something goes wrong with me?

If you seek emergency care or if hospitalisation is required at any time during the study or up to 2 years after enrolment into Sisonke, please tell the treating doctor that you are or were enrolled in the Sisonke Study and that the Sisonke Safety Desk should be informed.

If you become ill with COVID-19 you will be referred to a hospital treating COVID-19 for care. Please tell your treating doctor that you are enrolled in this study. Your treating doctor or you can contact the numbers below for more information. Every care will be taken in the course of this study. However, in the unlikely event that you are injured by taking part, compensation may be available.

SAMRC insurance will provide compensation for reasonable medical expenses incurred as a result of study-related injury or illness, or death determined according to the guidelines laid down by the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry (ABPI Compensation Guidelines Version 2014) http://www.abpi.org.uk/media/1607/compensation_guidelines_2014.pdf, and Guidelines for Good Practice in the Conduct of Clinical Trials in Human Participants in South Africa https://www.sahpra.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/SA-GCP-2020_Final.pdf.

Please notify the investigator immediately of any complications, side effects and/or injuries during the study and the nature of the expenses to be covered.

If a research related injury occurs, you have not waived any of the legal rights which you otherwise would have as a participant in this study by signing this form.

The insurance does not cover medical treatment of other injuries or illnesses or injury caused by non-observance of the protocol.

The investigator is indemnified conditional on compliance with the protocol, SAHPRA and related research committees and is not a substitute for medical malpractice insurance.

Please note that if you have a life insurance policy you should enquire whether your insurance company requires notification of your intention to participate in a study like this. Information to date is that it should not affect any life insurance policy taken out. Nevertheless, you are strongly advised to clarify it with the company concerned.

9 Contacts for further information

If you want further information about the Sisonke 2 study, contact:
The Sisonke Safety Desk Call:
0800 014 956 or refer to information on the Sisonke 2 website
http://sisonkestudy.samrc.ac.za/

Ethical Approval
This clinical study protocol has been submitted to the South African Medical Research Council Ethics Committee and written approval has been granted by that Committee. The study has been structured in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki (last updated: October 2013) which deals with the recommendations guiding doctors in biomedical research involving human participants. A copy may be obtained from me should you wish to review it.

If you have any additional questions about your rights as a research participant, you should contact the South African Medical Research Human Research Ethics Committee who is overseeing the conduct of this study at this clinical research centre. An Ethics Committee is an independent committee established to help protect the rights of research subjects.

Ms. Adri Labuschagne
SAMRC Ethics Committee
P.O. Box 19070
Tygerberg, Cape Town
Tel: 0219380687
Fax: 0866854023
E-mail: adri.labuschagne@mrc.ac.za

Regulatory Approval:
If you have questions about this study you should first discuss them with the Sisonke Desk, the related site team or the related Ethics Committee. If you have not been provided with answers to your satisfaction, you should write to the South African Health Products Regulatory Authority (SAHPRA) who provides regulatory approval for the study at:

The Chief Executive Officer
South African Health Products Regulatory Authority (SAHPRA)
Department of Health
Private Bag X828
Pretoria, 0001
E-mail: Boitumelo.Semete@sahpra.org.za
Tel: 012 5010410
Thank you for taking the time to consider taking part in this study