



As Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Platinum Health, I have witnessed the catastrophic impact of COVID-19. Since the start of COVID-19, 1 452 Platinum Health beneficiaries have been hospitalized and 206 (15% of patients admitted to hospital) have died. Many patients who have survived are struggling with health problems as a consequence of COVID-19. On a personal note, one of my very best friends died of COVID-19. The General Manager who appointed me when I first started working in the Mining Industry in 1992, a man who I greatly respected, and his wife passed away within four days of each other due to COVID-19 complications. Colleagues have died due to COVID-19.

I feel that COVID-19 has stolen 18 precious months of whatever time I have left to live as:

- Watching sport, rugby, cricket, soccer, golf and the Olympics on TV without any spectators is simply not fun. I was not able to go and watch the British Lions play the Springboks at the stadiums. This is probably the last time in my life I would have had the opportunity to see the British Lions play in South Africa.
- I cannot go to church.
- I have not been able to watch my grandchildren play sport, dance and participate in other activities.
- Our December holiday as a family was cut short as the beaches were closed.
- I have not been able to enjoy a braai or dinner with friends and family.
- Two overseas holidays were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- I have not visited friends in the last 18 months.
- As a family we could not go away on weekends.

I feel so sorry for our children, in my case, grandchildren. Two of my grandchildren cannot remember a life without wearing masks and the other two don't even know a life without wearing masks.

Birthday parties with friends have been cancelled. Instead of playing rugby, cricket, soccer, "open the gate", "kissing touches" and just playing on the sports field during breaks, these poor kids have to wear masks all day, continuously sanitize and sit 1.5m apart in circles during their break with lunch boxes having sandwiches. They cannot visit friends for play dates and just do what children should be doing.

As a loving husband, father and grandfather I decided to get vaccinated as it is irresponsible not to do so. I have a duty towards my loved ones to ensure they are protected, and my wife, children and sons-in-law have all been vaccinated as well.

I want to live a normal life and the sooner we get vaccinated and reach herd immunity, the sooner life will start returning to normal as we are seeing elsewhere in the world.

There is overwhelming evidence that COVID-19 vaccines:

- Reduce the chance of contracting COVID-19;
- Reduce the transmission of COVID-19 to others;
- Drastically reduce the risk of becoming severely ill or dying if infected by COVID-19; and
- Are safe! More than 5 billion people worldwide have been vaccinated.

FOR A BETTER LIFE DO THE RIGHT THING AND PLEASE VACCINATE.



Mr. Dan le Roux
CEO of Platinum Health