

✉ Share this with those who need to know



SAMED COVID-19 NEWS south african medical technology industry association

COVID-19 news from SAMED, industry and abroad

SAMED ON COVID-19

Minister Patel announces essential service application portal

The Minister of Trade and Industry, Mr Ebrahim Patel has announced that all businesses that will be allowed to provide essential services are required to seek approval from the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (the dtic) in order for them to trade during the period of the lockdown in terms of the regulations published today by the Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Ms Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma in Regulation Gazette No. 11062

Such businesses are required to apply to the Companies and Intellectual Property Commission (CIPC) Bizportal website at www.bizportal.gov.za and obtain a certificate from the Commission that allows them to continue trading. The Bizportal website will contain a menu icon listed as “Essential Service Businesses” through which an application can be made to the CIPC.

View the full announcement [here](#).

Online BizPortal to register businesses that provide essential goods and services during the lockdown period

Continuing on what the minister stated in the above and the many challenges that were experienced by companies trying to make use of the portal, the dti released a media statement on the afternoon of 26 March stating that the site was fully functional. They ask that companies be patient through the registration process, as there are large volumes presently being experienced.

The service will continue to run beyond the lockdown hour and it is not a requirement that companies complete registration before the lockdown begins. Possession of a CIPC certificate does not constitute permission to operate during the lockdown. Companies may issue letters to their workers independent of the registration process, which must be done ahead of the lockdown hour.

View the announcement [here](#).

[Back to top](#)

SAMED urges members to do these three things to operate during lockdown

There are 3 things business in the health sector, including practices, must do in order to operate during the lockdown.

1. Identify who in your business / practice will be essential, consider the OHSA and NHA obligation you have to protect your staff and all patients / others.
2. Have your “permits” for all staff, including yourself, who will be travelling from tomorrow. [Use Annexure C in the Regulations](#). Employers must complete it for EACH staff member who has been identified as essential and the CEO/or equivalent should sign. And we recommend supplementing with an additional letter with explanations of, for example, the person’s role and the specific goods they may carry. SAHPRA licence numbers, HPCSA cards, etc.

With regard to the additional letter, herewith some additional recommendations:

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

- The letter must describe the services provided by the company in order to indicate that they provide essential services.
- The employer's name and address and official business stamp.
- Mention that the staff member might need to be allowed to travel after business hours/irregular hours.
- Name and contact number of CEO.
- Original signature of CEO.

A hard copy of this letter together with a photo ID (ID document, Passport, Drivers License or other ID with a photo) must be in possession of the employee at all times. If an essential company employ cleaners or security personnel they must have the same letters from their companies. If the company has a contract with a logistics provider (e.g. courier), that logistics provider must also be in possession of a letter which states that reason.

3. Register your business at the [CIPC website](#) as essential.

Please follow the instructions to be able to register.

- Once website open, click on Services at the top right.
- Then go down to the red block – Essential Services – click on this.
- Then click apply and follow instructions

SERVICES

PLEASE NOTE: BizPortal services are currently offline, except for Essential Service application for businesses that provide essential services. The rest of the BizPortal services will be activated after the National Lockdown has been lifted. Attempting to use any of the services will keep redirecting you to the login page, which is not activated.

 Biz Profile	 Company Registration	 Tax Registration
 Domain Name Registration	 B-BBEE Certificates	 Compensation Fund
 UIF Registration	 Business Bank Accounts	 Company Name Changes
 COVID-19 Essential Services		

The SAMED COVID-19 task group is working on collating data for key stakeholders and we urge members to please provide us with up-to-date, accurate information as and when we ask for it.

MEDTECH SUPPLIERS TO HEED THE FOLLOWING COVID-19 NOTICES, LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS

REGULATION: Disaster Management Act: Lockdown Regulations

Following the Presidential announcement, regulations with regards to the 21 day National Lockdown have been gazetted. The regulations cover the restriction on the movement of persons and goods, the prohibition of public transport, and the resources by the state during the lockdown.

Importantly, it also has four annexures:

- A.** Order for a person to go to a site of isolation, quarantine facility, or for a person to go for a medical examination.
- B.** Categorisation of essential goods and services during lockdown
- C.** Permit to perform essential services
- D.** Places and premises closed to the public

Download the regulations [here](#).

[Back to top](#)

SAHPRA: Backlog clearance program

Due to the COVID19 national lockdown, the SAHPRA Reception (Building 38) will be closed during the lockdown and backlog applications will only be submitted electronically. As such SAHPRA has implemented new procedures to deal with:

- New Registrations
- Variations

This includes:

- Revised Resubmission windows for generic new applications
- Revised Resubmission windows for variation applications

Read the full notice [here](#).

[Back to top](#)

SAHPRA: The Use of Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs in patients with COVID-19

The South African Health Products Regulatory Authority (SAHPRA) has become aware of reports about whether non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), such as ibuprofen, could worsen coronavirus disease (COVID-19). Currently, there is insufficient evidence that NSAIDs may worsen COVID-19 infection. The SAHPRA-approved professional information and patient information leaflets for NSAIDs already indicate that their anti-inflammatory effects may mask the symptoms of infections, which could delay diagnosis.

In light of the available evidence, SAHPRA recommends that:

- Healthcare professionals follow current standard treatment guidelines regarding the symptomatic treatment of pain and fever in patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 infection. Unless it is contraindicated, paracetamol should be considered the first-line treatment option;
- NSAIDs should be used at the lowest effective dose and for the shortest period;
- Patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 infection who are already on NSAIDs should seek advice from their doctor before stopping their medication.

Read the full notice [here](#).

[Back to top](#)

SAHPRA: Business Continuity Plan in response to COVID 19 pandemic

The SAHPRA Executive Management takes the responsibilities of its staff and its corporate responsibility to all stakeholders seriously. SAHPRA Management Team has set up a COVID -19 Containment Task Team on the 17th of March 2020 to ensure an adequate response, to safeguard staff and meeting its public health mandate in the health space at a crucial time.

The team has thus far profiled the risk of business disruption due to the pandemic outbreak of the Coronavirus (COVID 19). Further, the team has analysed the impact it might have on operations of the organisation and formulated a Business Continuity Plan to mitigate this risk.

Please download the SAHPRA Business Continuity Plan, [here](#).

[Back to top](#)

NLC directs R 50 million in relief of Coronavirus

The National Lotteries Commission ('the Commission') has availed 50 million rands through its Proactive Funding mechanism, to assist in efforts to cushion the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on South Africans. The funds will be used to provide much-needed relief to beneficiaries of the Solidarity Fund that

Read the full press release [here](#).

[Back to top](#)

Fair Allocation of Scarce Medical Resources in the Time of COVID-19

COVID-19 is officially a pandemic. It is a novel infection with serious clinical manifestations, including death, and it has reached at least 124 countries and territories. Although the ultimate course and impact of COVID-19 are uncertain, it is not merely possible but likely that the disease will produce enough severe illness to overwhelm health care infrastructure.

Emerging viral pandemics “can place extraordinary and sustained demands on public health and health systems and on providers of essential community services. Such demands will create the need to ration medical equipment and interventions. The rapidly growing imbalance between supply and demand for medical resources in many countries presents an inherently normative question: How can medical resources be allocated fairly during a COVID-19 pandemic?”

Read how *The New England Journal of Medicine* explores this, [here](#).

[Back to top](#)

SOME COVID-19 DEVELOPMENTS

Tracking the pandemic

South Africa has registered 709 cases of COVID-19 infection, with zero deaths and two patients in critical condition. Elsewhere, Spain has overtaken China as the country with most deaths due to the coronavirus, and there are fears that Iran will experience a “second wave” of new infections. India has gone on lockdown, while US President Donald Trump faces further criticism of his pronouncements that the US will overcome the coronavirus outbreak by Easter, and that the US will then reopen for business.

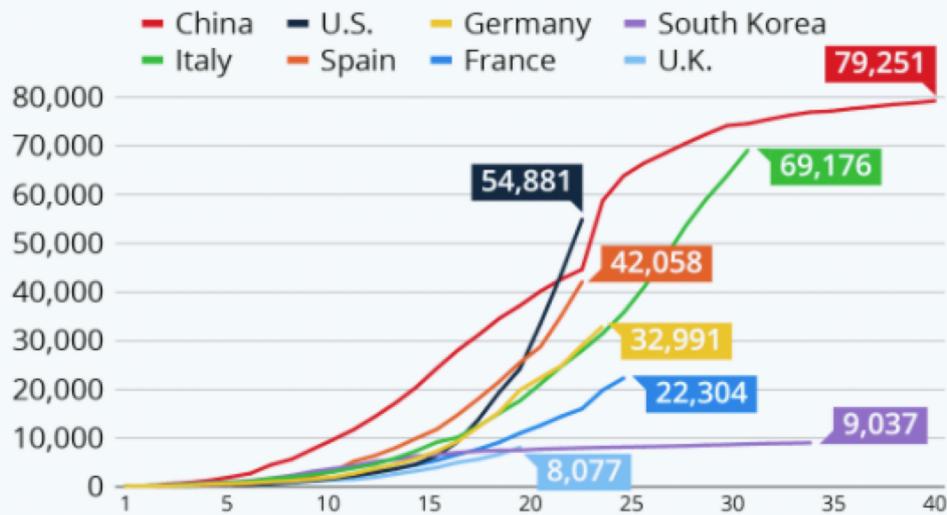
The University of the Witwatersrand (Wits) has launched a [website](#) that presents the latest statistics on the effect of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) on South Africa.

Discovery's Rob Whelan contributed to yesterday's [Inside Covid-19](#) podcast, explaining that if left unchecked, this highly contagious disease expands at a rate of 30% a day.

This graph shows the progression of infections in eight high-burden countries.

or Flattened Curve?

Cumulative confirmed COVID-19 cases in selected countries from day 1 to 40 after 100+ cases



As of March 24, 2020

Source: Johns Hopkins University



statista

Testing, clinical and prevention news

- South Africa's [private health laboratories](#) are taking most of the strain testing for COVID-19 disease, as state laboratories lag, having processed only one-in-six of tests.
- However, the NHLS says it is [expanding its testing capabilities](#) to process 36,000 samples a day by the end of April. The NHLS would increase the number of laboratories performing Covid-19 tests from six to nine, and the number of mobile testing sites would increase from four to 20. The NHLS has 18 Cobas 6,800 and 8,800 machines, and more than 180 GeneXpert analysers, which were originally procured for testing for TB. They would use spare capacity on these machines, and not disrupt current TB testing. The test kit for the [GeneXpert](#) was approved by the US Food and Drug Administration last week, and test kits are due to arrive in SA in April, she said. The advantage, according to the supplier, is that tests can be processed in 45 minutes, and the smaller machines can be placed in mobile vehicles, which makes it suitable for community testing.
- Another rapid molecular test is being rolled out by the German company [Qiagen](#).
- The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine is offering a free 3-week online [course](#) on COVID-19 and its implications. It's available in several languages.
- A Facebook page linked to Cape Town-based digital marketing firm [Fangate](#) created at least 33 Facebook groups between January and March 2020 that **leveraged fears** around the novel coronavirus to build their respective audiences, a DFRLab investigation has found. Fangate's director subsequently used a separate but related entity called AppleBerry to exploit these fears and **market non-medical face masks** to the members of these groups.
- [Fin24](#) asked medical schemes and private hospital groups what they are doing to cooperate with government in terms of covering testing and treatment and providing quarantine facilities, if the load of people requiring hospitalisation gets to a point where beds in the military hospitals aren't enough to accommodate all those who need admission.

Economic implications

The [finalised lockdown regulations](#) as they are drafted, alongside available ministerial directives, seem to allow for loopholes – to be exploited by some, or abused by those who now may stop and question South

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate](#) ▼

national lockdown, about operating times. The talks would be about retailers opening earlier and closing earlier to limit the movement of people.

The link to the article also features a nice animated infographic (see image), where you can click on any of the icons for further information.

SA on lockdown

Click/tap an icon to view details (as at March 25 2020)



Prior to the coronavirus pandemic, many companies were already linking [executives' salaries](#) to new means of performance measures. Now there is more political and reputational risk; bumper pay packages for CEOs, who at the top level can earn hundreds of times more than average workers, could prove a sensitive issue for companies at a time when thousands of people are dying, health systems are buckling and millions of people are losing their jobs.

US consultancy Semler Brossy, which advises companies on executive pay, expects boards to increasingly adopt compensation plans tied to new metrics such as worker health or carbon emissions.

COVID-19 PANDEMIC



Call centres and Hotlines

National Institute for Communicable Diseases: 0800 029 999	South African Police Service 08600 10111	Department of Home Affairs: 0800 601 190
Gender-based violence command centre 0800 428 428 or *120*7867# (free)	National Crisis Line: 0861 322 322	Department of Water Affairs: 0800 200 200
Support to SMMEs in distress: 0860 663 7867	Reporting undue price increases: 0800 141 880	Department of Tourism: 0860 868 747
	WhatsApp: 060 012 3456	Presidential Hotline 17737

www.gov.za | www.health.gov.za | www.nicd.ac.za | www.sacoronavirus.co.za



[Back to top](#)

Copyright © 2020 SAMED, All rights reserved.

Telephone: 011 704 2440 - Email: info@samed.org.za - www.samed.org.za

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

SAMED is the voice of the South African medical technology industry. The not-for-gain was formed in 1985 and aims to provide members with a collective, objective and credible platform to engage with stakeholders. SAMED's members include individual medical technology companies, associate members and associations.

Disclaimer: The information contained in the mailer is for general information purposes only. The information is provided by SAMED and whiles SAMED endeavours to ensure the information is current and correct, it makes no representations or warranties of any kind, express or implied, about the completeness, accuracy, reliability, suitability or availability with respect to the information, services, or related graphics contained in this mailer for any purpose. Any reliance the user places on such information is therefore strictly at the user's own risk. In no event will SAMED be liable for any loss or damage including without limitation, indirect or consequential loss or damage. or any loss or damage whatsoever arising from loss of data or profit arising out of or in connection with the contents or use of this mailer.