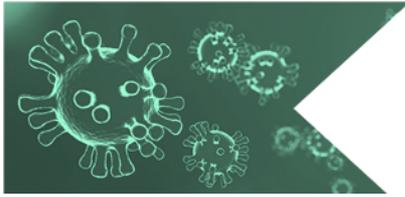


✉ Share this with those who need to know



SAMED COVID-19 NEWS

south african medical technology industry association

COVID-19 news from SAMED, Government and Abroad.

SAMED ON COVID-19

The [SAMED Library](#) is a dedicated resource for all COVID-19 related updates, regulations, notices and news. All SAMED COVID-19 updates and related information can be found [here](#).

DO NOT MISS THIS SESSION WITH THE REGULATOR

SAMED/SALDA Regulatory Forum

While we are unable to provide face to face sessions with members, we invite you to attend a virtual regulatory forum. SAMED has received queries regarding SAHPRA licencing processes given the current pandemic.

SAMED / SALDA Regulatory Forum

8 APRIL 2020



Virtual Session: *subject to change*

10h00-11h30

SAHPRA COVID-19 processes

Andrea Julsing Keyter, Deputy Director Medical Devices, SAHPRA

This will be a virtual meeting held via Microsoft Teams. Please mute your microphone and turn off video when joining the meeting. Should you have questions for SAHPRA, please send these to communication@samed.org.za in advance or to make use of the in-session chat function.

Use this link to participate: [Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)

DO YOU HAVE A COVID-19 QUESTION OR QUERY?

Please visit the [FAQ Section](#) of our library as it provides answers to many of the frequently asked questions we receive.

QUESTION: Who do I contact at ITAC to assist me with my exports application?

ANSWER: ITAC import or export permit applications for disaster relief as a result of COVID-19 must be submitted electronically. Exemptions for exports all need to be directed to Marius Collins and Lufuno with the correspondence copied to Mohamed Vawda on all ITAC related issues.

- Marius Collins mcollins@itac.org.za
- Lufuno Maliaga lmaliaga@itag.org.za
- Mohamed Vawda MVawda@economic.gov.za.

You will need to complete the following documents:

- [IE361 Application or export permit: General Goods](#)
- [IE230 Application to register as an exporter or change of current information](#)

More details can be found on the [ITAC Communication to Stakeholders](#).

Directions issued on the measures to prevent and combat the spread of COVID-19

The Minister of Small Business Development issue the directions in order to provide guidance on the implementation of the provisions of essential goods and services. This is primarily in relation to SMMEs operating grocery stores.

In terms of the lockdown Regulations, all enterprises operating within the borders of the Republic of South Africa are expected to close during the lockdown period except for enterprises which are designated as providers of essential goods and services as per Annexure B to the lockdown Regulations. All enterprises must ensure that the absolute minimum number of staff necessary to safely operate the enterprises are at work during the lockdown period. Furthermore, employers are encouraged to provide transport for their employees during the lockdown period.

All staff must at all times carry a permit to perform essential services contemplated regulation 11(B)(3) of the lockdown Regulations. A stamp or authorised signature on the permit contemplated in regulation 11(B)(3), to perform essential services, is acceptable. All staff must at all times carry photo identification such as an identity document, passport or permit, issued by the Department of Home Affairs.

Download the notice [here](#).

SMMEs wishing to clarify their status as rendering an essential service or providing essential goods should contact the Department of Small Business Development (DSBD) on 0860 663 7867 for more information or alternatively send their queries to info@dsbd.gov.za

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Freight Flights for Importing Goods

We are aware of the limitations on freight flights for importing essential medical equipment.

DHL was able to answer queries and assist over 15 member organizations last week. To support the African Continent during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, they are deploying dedicated weekly capacity from China to Africa. The following destinations are in scope and can be served through their service: Ghana, Nigeria, South Africa, Angola, Kenya, Ivory Coast Cargo from across China can be consolidated at Guangzhou Airport for uplift on their scheduled flights. Services can be extended to other countries on an ad-hoc demand/supply basis.

If you would like to know more, [read here](#) or contact Mike Wood m.wood@dhl.com or 082 939 1768

If you wish to make use of SAA flights contact rikhotso@dot.gov.za for assistance.

If you wish to consolidate with others, please contact Mpumi Madisha Mpumi@bidvest.co.za

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Business for South Africa Update

Business for South Africa has become aware of businesses that are applying for exemption as an essential service in an attempt to continue operating, and many requests are not strictly within the definition of an essential service. It is critical that we all place the public health imperative ahead of any sectoral commercial interest.

They appeal to all institutions to request its corporate and other organisations to assist in informing members that only businesses that are absolutely essential, which is defined as extremely important and necessary, should remain open. If in doubt, the business premises should be closed and all owners and employees must stay home unless absolutely necessary.

Read the Business for South Africa Update [here](#).

Download the Business for SA Medical Equipment Workstream Summary [here](#).

Business for South Africa would like to encourage you to like and follow the new B4SA social media pages listed below:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/businessforsa/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/businessforsa>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/businessunitysa/>

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Nolans answer some of your questions

Nolans has received several questions on similar points of concern. They have created a short video clip on a few issues around PAYE liability and deferrals, the R50m turnover limit and clarity around tax compliance profiles.

[Click for the Nolans Video](#)

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COVID-19: Important matters relating to Government Assistance

President Ramaphosa announced that the government will be assisting employees and employers during the COVID-19 pandemic using various government funding initiatives. The summary covers the following:

1. Department of Labour:

- UIF
- Compensation Fund
- National Disaster Benefit fund- TERS (UIF)

2. Department of Small Business Development

- Debt relief
- SMME business growth

3. Department of Tourism

4. IDC

5. Solidarity Fund

6. SA Future Trust

7. Business Partners

8. Informal business

Download the SAICA summary with links to these Government initiatives [here](#).

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QUESTION: I am a business owner. How can I access support during the lockdown?**ANSWER:**

If you cannot pay the full salaries of your employees:

- Apply for the Unemployment Insurance Fund's COVID-19 TERS benefit by sending an email to covid19ters@labour.gov.za. You will receive an automated reply with instructions on how to proceed. The fund will contribute a portion of the employee's salary up to a maximum of R17,712 per month for each employee.

If you are in financial distress and require grant or loan funding:

- You must register on <https://smmesa.gov.za/> to be eligible for funding from the Debt Relief Finance Scheme. Once you have registered, you can download the application form on <https://smmesa.gov.za/> or www.sefa.org.za and email it to smmerelief@sefa.org.za.
- Apply for relief funding from the South Africa Future Trust directly through your bank. If you have an account with Standard Bank, FNB, Absa or Nedbank, contact your bank to find out how to access this facility. Visit <https://oppngen.com/saft/> for more information about the scheme. If you have an account with Nedbank, visit <https://www.nedbank.co.za/content/nedbank/desktop/gt/en/business/covid-19-relief1/SAFT1.html>. If you have an account with Standard Bank, visit <https://www.standardbank.co.za/southafrica/business/covid-19/south-africanfuture-trust>.
- Contact the bank where you have an existing account to enquire about payment holidays and options for debt restructuring.

If you produce an essential good or service and require funding to scale up your operations:

- Apply to the Industrial Development Corporation for working capital, loan or trade finance to support your operations. Email covid@idc.co.za, call 0860 693 888, or visit

The Solidarity Fund uniting South Africa against COVID-19

The Solidarity Fund provided more details on its purpose and mandate of mobilising and coordinating efforts and resources from all South Africans and the international community to assist most vulnerable South Africans to deal with the impact of Covid19 and the consequences of measures intended to slow its rate of infection. One of its key focus areas is a Health Response with direct support for the healthcare system, augmenting both the private and government healthcare sectors to ensure they have what they need, as well as enabling emergency supplies. This priority initiative, to which funds will be deployed this week, will be to prepare the health system to respond to COVID-19. R100m has been made available through the SF for the procurement of additional PPE (masks, gloves and protective gowns) for health workers.

Beyond these material interventions, the Fund hopes to unite the nation in action and drive solidarity in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic and will run a campaign that demonstrates and celebrates how South Africans are responding to the challenge of fighting the threat of COVID-19.

Details on how to donate are available on the Fund's website www.solidarityfund.co.za
For more information email info@solidarityfund.co.za

For offers of supply of Medicines and Medical Devices send
to covid19supplies@businessresponsecovid19.co.za

If you are seeking PPE for your hospital, clinic, or NGO please email your request
to covid19requests@businessresponsecovid19.co.za

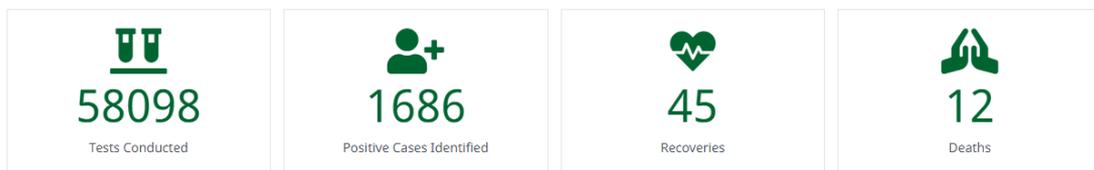
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COVID-19 DEVELOPMENTS

TRACKING THE PANDEMIC

- South Africa's latest number of confirmed cases is 1 686, and there have been 12 fatalities. South Africa had conducted over 50 000 tests by 4 April. This compares well to, say, Brazil, which has conducted about the same number of tests but has a much bigger population. But our capacity is far behind Australia (nearly 300 000 tests), South Korea (over 460 000 tests) and most European countries.
- British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has been moved to intensive care after his symptoms worsened, according to reports on Monday. He was taken to hospital on Sunday for tests, his office said, 10 days after he tested positive for coronavirus. The UK has confirmed over 51 000 COVID-19 cases and recorded over 5 300 deaths.

COVID-19 Statistics in South Africa



CLINICAL AND SCIENTIFIC NEWS

- [Watch this six-minute](#) educational video "Coronavirus is not the flu. It's worse."
- As COVID-19 causes complications and death in patients globally, experts are attempting to find out exactly how the virus attacks the body.
- While medical experts reported acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) as one of the main symptoms of COVID-19, it has been shown that it can also affect the heart. But now, according to an article in the [New York Times](#), and reports by clinicians, neurological symptoms such as confusion, seizures and an altered mental state have also been observed.

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Prevention released the study on Monday, which looked at more than 2,500 coronavirus cases among children younger than 18 in the US between February 12 and April 2. That's the largest research sample of children with the coronavirus to date. Overall, the data suggested that children are less likely to develop coronavirus symptoms than adults. Of all reported cases in the US, only 1.7% were children, even though they make up 22% of the population.

RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

- In an interview with Biznews founder Alec Hogg for the Inside COVID-19 podcast, the deputy executive director of the Perinatal HIV Research Unit at Baragwanath Hospital, Dr Neil Martinson, had a word of caution and said that a [second wave of coronavirus infections](#) is possible if containment measures are lifted too soon.
- The **new regulations on transport**, which had come into effect on Tuesday increased the number of passengers allowed in a standard **car during the lockdown from one to two**. There was no sign of a requirement for anyone in a car to wear masks of any kind.
- [Uber Eats is accelerating its push into grocery delivery](#), and is joining forces with essential goods providers to help deliver everyday products to South African households consistent with all hygiene measures and delivery restrictions laid out by the South African government.
- SA's eighteen remaining border posts that remain open will continue to stay open for trade, but not for human traffic.
- The lockdown has seen a massive [fall in South African crime levels](#), with murder cases falling to 94 in the first week of lockdown, from 326 in the same week last year. Rape cases dropped from 699 to 101, while assault with intent to inflict grievous bodily harm dropped from 2 673 to 456, Police Minister Bheki Cele announced on Sunday. Apart from the lockdown, Cele attributed the decrease to the prohibition of the sale and movement of liquor since the nationwide coronavirus lockdown started on 27 March.
- Global leader in market research, **Ipsos** has released its April report. Here are two highlights:
 - **Online South Africans have more confidence in government than in business when it comes to COVID-19.** A majority of online South Africans are confident that the national government is effectively addressing the threat posed by the spread of the coronavirus, even as lockdowns and closures force millions to isolate themselves. They also expressed their confidence in international institutions in handling the crisis. <https://www.ipsos.com/en-za/online-south-africans-have-more-confidence-government-business-when-it-come-covid-19-0>.
 - As many brands seem uncertain about how, or even if, they should respond during this time, this paper looks at **how firms can pursue consumers in the right way and deliver value in a time of contextual fluidity**. While, of course, it is vital to avoid being seen as a crisis profiteer, there are a number of ways brands can play enhanced roles in people's lives in a period of time where people are out of their automatic behavioural rhythms. <https://www.ipsos.com/sites/default/files/ct/publication/documents/2020-03/coronavirus-behavior-change-ipsos.pdf>.

ECONOMY & POLITICS

- [President Cyril Ramaphosa and French President Emmanuel Macron](#) are leading an effort to win global support for a comprehensive action plan to help Africa cope with the coronavirus pandemic. They are approaching the IMF, the World Bank, other international banks and national governments to support the plan, which includes considerable health support as well as debt relief and concessional loans to enable African governments to weather the economic impacts, which are expected to be large.
- On the other hand, the **ANC and its tripartite alliance partners**, the SACP and Cosatu, have [hit back at Finance Minister Tito Mboweni](#), rejecting his comments that he would turn to the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) for economic relief if the need arises.
- **Woolworths executives** have agreed to a **30% pay cut** for the next three months so it can keep paying the rest of its staff, with extra for those who remain part of its essential workforce.
- Meanwhile, Alec Hogg says in his daily business update that he had a brilliant suggestion from a member of the Biznews community who asks **why can't supermarkets implement one-way aisles** - a sure and easy way to improve social distancing. Makes sense to me. If you know anyone who carries weight at Woolies, Pick n Pay, Shoprite or Spar, please drop them a line.

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- Politics is entering the lockdown arena. The western Cape provincial government says it is allowing people to sell and buy [cigarettes](#), so long as they are bought and sold with other essential goods. The national government says cigarettes cannot be sold. This appears to be a useful wedge issue for the DA in its campaigning against the ANC.

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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.

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