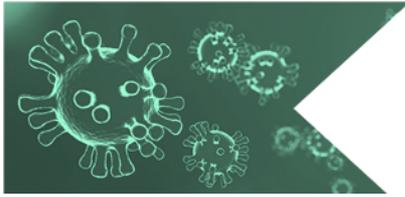


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SAMED COVID-19 NEWS south african medical technology industry association

COVID-19 news from SAMED, Government and Abroad.

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](#).

SAMED ON COVID-19

PLEASE PARTICIPATE: COVID-19 products and company information portal.

We are aware of the constant requests by many sources for different information in different formats re COVID-19. SAMED being one of the 'asker's'. And that this is frustrating and time-consuming.

SAMED has worked hard over the last few days to create a live, online, safe and secure portal where the industry can submit their information regarding COVID-19 required products. (Note our previous excel sheets are no longer required). This effort is part of the broader SAMED collaboration with the Minister of Health via Business Unity South Africa's "Business for South Africa" initiative (BSA). During the current pandemic, up-to-date information is critical to ensure all key stakeholders in the value chain make the best-informed decisions at the right time.

The information collected on the covid19manager.co.za platform will be used to ensure supplier verification, regulatory compliance, product availability, reasonable pricing and providing the accurate and most up-to-date logistical information to the procurement department division at BSA to place orders from you and/or assist with ramping up local production. It is an automated process to help facilitate the overwhelming demand currently being experienced in South Africa during the weeks to come. The IDC, the dti, Minister of Health and the BSA procurement team will have access to the data. No data will be shared with other suppliers. SAMED will report to the Minister on the aggregated data.

We are aware that it is extremely difficult for you to secure overseas supply without a confirmed order, however, please be assured that all the products on the portal will be in high demand over the next while. We cannot say exactly how much and so ask your patience in this regard. We will endeavour to keep you updated of the expected need as per attached example.

We have the blessing from the Minister to procure locally first and via trusted credible suppliers. We understand that you may have existing orders in the pipeline promised for other customers, however, we urge you to consider diverting as much as you can now and going forward to this portal. If we unite and work together we can make a difference.

NOTE: THIS IS A LIVE SYSTEM SO PLEASE UPDATE YOUR STOCK QUANTITIES AND LEAD TIME AS AND WHEN THEY CHANGE.

Please see the following [link to the video](#) for an explanation of how to use the portal and click on <https://covid19manager.co.za/> to add your company and product information.

You will most likely be contacted by a member of the BSA procurement team should your information provided need to be verified or an order need to be placed. In this regard, we have put in place a security

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read this code to anyone but only have them read it back to you for validation. If at any point you feel your security code is compromised please let Tanya Vogt (tanya@samed.org.za) know and it will reset.

We are extremely appreciative of the support and commitment of our members in fighting this pandemic.

[Back to top](#)

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: Can I have duties on COVID-19 products waived? If so, where do I apply?

ANSWER: Duties have been waived in favour of reducing the cost associated with importing medical technology critical to the prevention, testing and management of COVID-19 in South Africa. The Department of Trade, Industry and Competition has made a provision of rebate item 412.11 for goods imported for the relief of distress. Should your import item be listed as [a remedy for critical medical supplies for COVID-19](#), you can download a [rebate application from the ITAC website](#) for a duties rebate.

This Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) acts as a guideline for Business in importing critical supplies into South Africa under Rebate Item 412.11. Importantly, rebate item 412.11' means the full rebate of custom duties and VAT exemption on the critical supplies during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Download the SOP for Business Importing Critical Supplies [here](#).

Kindly note that a permit application for critical medical supplies as listed on ITAC's website must be submitted electronically to the following officials:

For goods classifiable under Chapter 1 to 68:

- Mr Christopher Sako at csako@itac.org.za; and
- Ms Khosi Mzinjana at kmzinjana@itac.org.za;

For goods classifiable under Chapter 69 to 96:

- Ms Lufuno Maliaga at lmaliaga@itac.org.za

It should also be noted that the relevant application form requires among others, specific volumes and values, which should be informed by i.e. offtake orders or substantiated methodology that supports the volume applied for as well corresponding value. It would therefore not be a blanket permit for a prolonged period of time.

Should you require more clarity you are at liberty to contact the relevant officials mentioned above.

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 Regarding Call Centres Providing Essential Services

Regulations provide that call centres are necessary to provide health, safety, social support, government and financial services is an essential service. The spread of the COVID-19 virus in call centres is of particular concern. The purpose of these Directions is to clarify the extent and the conditions upon which, call centres may operate during the lockdown.

Download the Directions [here](#).

[Back to top](#)

COVID-19: Human resources

The Minister of Health has today issued this directive relating to Human Resources:

- It shortens recruitment processes to one week, whilst considering the need to verify qualifications, etc.
- All health personnel, also in the private sector, must be **trained in the management of the pandemic**.
- Deployment of personnel must be considered, and all personnel must be available for deployment (it is not clear whether this would extend to the private sector).
- All **retired** health personnel, community service, EPW and community-based and NGO's may be requested to fill positions, and authorities **must engage these individuals** and organisations to render services in identified areas.
- **Health equipment, sanitation and medical supplies** must be "endeavoured" to be sourced and supplied to site.
- Waste must be treated to the National Environmental Health Norms.
- All personnel to be trained on **PP clothing**
- Rules on waste disposal and sanitation of quarantine and treatment facilities are set
- Rules relating to mortuaries that will accommodate "COVID-19 mortal remains" and disposal of bodies
- There is also a rule that **any visitors from outside of SA must be reported to the NDoH** within 24 hours, i.e. by 9 April 2020.

What is not clear from this set of Directives are the following:

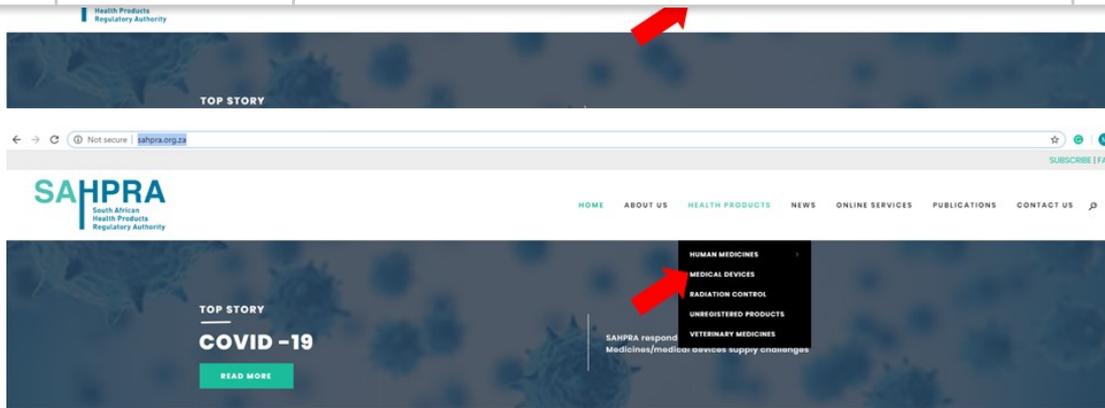
- Whether persons from the private sector could be "deployed" (it does not seem so from the Directive)
- Whether the state would cover the **professional indemnity** of the retirees who might be engaged to render services
- Whether the supply of inadequate **levels of PPE** would fall foul of the Directive, as entities must only "endeavour" to source and supply.

Download the HR Provisions [here](#).

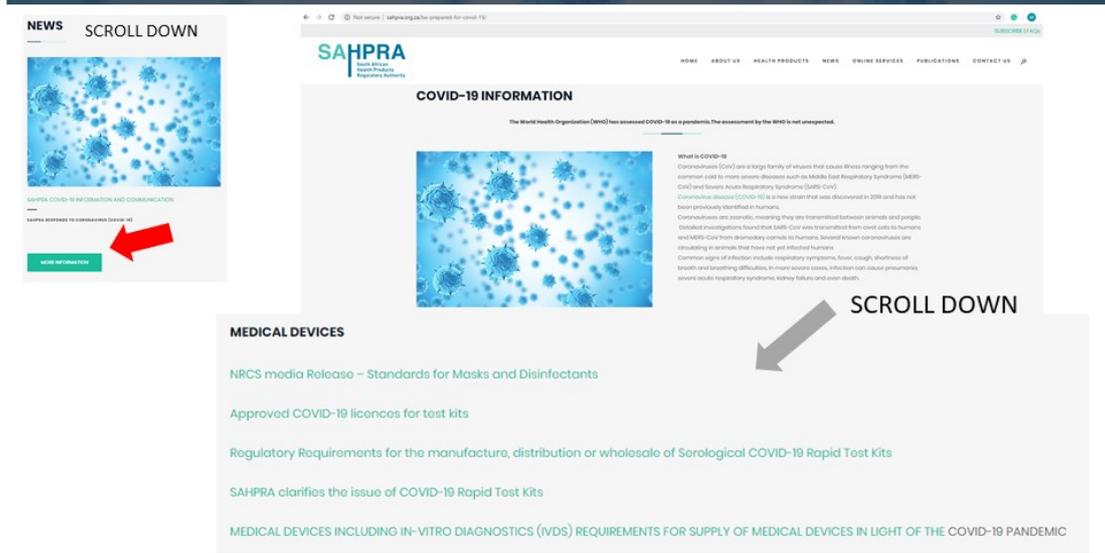
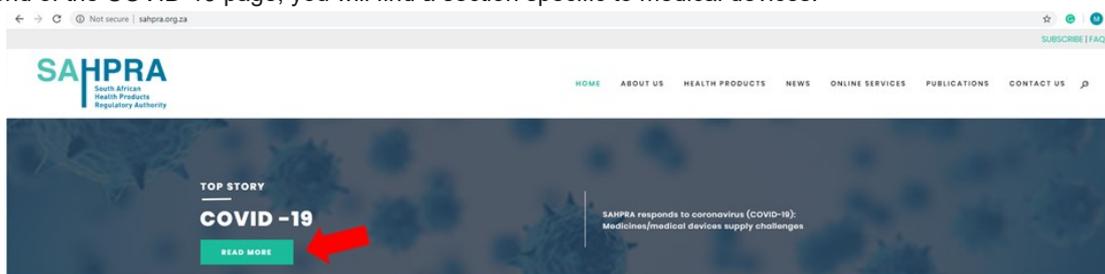
[Back to top](#)

Make use of the SAHPRA web resources

SAHPRA has two dedicated areas on its website for medical device suppliers. The [medical devices](#) page includes the fees and frequently asked questions. To find this page, go to the www.sahpra.org.za website, hover over the Health Products Tab and then click on Medical Devices. If you scroll through this page you will find information, fees and FAQs specific to devices.



The second is an area at the end of the [COVID-19 page](#) with information and notices specific to the COVID-19 pandemic and medical device suppliers. To find this page, go to e www.sahpra.org.za website, click on either the homepage COVID banner or scroll down to the section on COVID under News. At the end of the COVID-19 page, you will find a section specific to medical devices.



[Back to top](#)

Treasury calls on compliant suppliers to provide Coronavirus COVID-19 commodities

Due to shortages of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), the National Treasury in support of the Department of Trade, Industry, and Competition (DTIC) calls on all compliant, particularly local, suppliers

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1. Disposable aprons
2. Protective surgical gowns
3. Protective eyewear
4. Surgical gloves
5. Overshoes
6. Protective hoods
7. Biohazard bags
8. Ventilators
9. Alcohol-Cleaning, disinfectants – clinical
10. Venturi mask

Detailed information should be provided for the above items and submitted directly to the email covid19supplies@businessresponsecovid19.co.za.

The submission should include the following information:

- Supplier name,
- Company registration,
- Central Supplier Database number (CSD),
- Indication of products that can be supplied.

For more information, [click here](#).

[Back to top](#)

Government COVID-19 Funding Initiatives

The COVID-19 pandemic brought considerable attention to trade in medical products, and specifically trade in products for the prevention, testing and treatment. Now, amid the significant economic risk that the coronavirus poses to South Africa, President Cyril Ramaphosa has announced that the government is in the process of finalising a stimulus package that would help to mitigate the shocks facing the country's economy.

1. [Department of Small Business: Call out to existing South African owned, registered and tax compliant SMME*s to submit proposals](#);
2. [Proposed Industrial Responsive Fund V-COVID Intervention](#);
3. [IDC COVID-19 Essential Supplies Intervention](#); and
4. [Excel spreadsheet for the Minister of Trade and Industry](#).

Feel free to contact **Adriaan Adams (066 306 8289)** from the dti should you have any questions: AAdams@thedti.gov.za

[Back to top](#)

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.

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

[Back to top](#)

TRACKING THE PANDEMIC

- SA has 1845 confirmed COVID-19 cases, an increase of 96 since yesterday (8 April), and 18 fatalities (12 are men).
- Globally, there are 1,48 million confirmed cases and 88 500 deaths.
- Netcare said it was investigating a COVID-19 outbreak at St Augustine's Hospital in KwaZulu-Natal, where four people died and 47 staff members tested positive.
- A Shoprite store in Bothasig, Cape Town, was closed on Tuesday after a staffer tested positive.

SCIENCE, CLINICAL AND TESTING

- Research published in [The Lancet](#) suggests that a subgroup of patients with severe COVID-19 symptoms might suffer complications, not because of their age or underlying conditions, but because of a cytokine storm due to their immune systems fighting the virus. Cytokines keep the body on high alert, even long after the viral load of the COVID-19 virus is no longer a threat. As the cytokines simply do their job, the "fight" results in a severe impact on multiple organs such as the lungs and liver, which can cause deadly complications.
- Ahead of the mass testing programme for COVID-19, the City of Tshwane in partnership with the University of Pretoria launched a hotline that will deal with all aspects of the pandemic. The hotline will offer the following services:
 - Education and awareness related to COVID-19 matters.
 - A telephonic screening if people suspect they have contracted COVID-19, using an approved screening questionnaire.
 - Provide referrals to COVID-19 screening and testing sites.
 - Provide information and guidance about what precautionary measures to take.
 - Serve as a resource base for other health-related enquires.

SUPPLIES, ECONOMY, FINANCIAL SECTOR

BUSINESS MZANSI WE NEED YOU



An urgent call for businesses to divert any available PPE inventories our national health sector

<https://protect-za.mimecast.com/s/T3sKCG5XmvU62Lws7-T9S> WE ARE HEALTHY IN THEIR FIGHT AGAINST THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

TO DONATE OR DIVERT STOCKS
EMAIL: COVID19SUPPLIES
@BUSINESSRESPONSECOVID19.CO.ZA



An urgent call for businesses to divert any available PPE inventories our national health sector

- As the number of coronavirus cases in South Africa continues to grow, [National Treasury](#) has moved to centralise the sourcing of **personal protective equipment** from suppliers. Citing a shortage of protective gear, Treasury on Wednesday issued a call for "compliant, particularly local" suppliers of PPE items such as surgical gloves, masks, sanitisers, ventilators and more to submit offers to a central project management office for assessment. Other items on the list included overshoes, biohazard bags, cleaning alcohol, disinfectants, protective eyewear and disposable aprons.
- A weaker rand is expected to place pressures on [Tiger Brands](#), particularly when it comes to **rice imports** - while stricter hygiene and safety standards may result in delayed distribution of staple foods. While Tiger Brands imports rice from Thailand, time delays are expected in being able to distribute the product, as the Department of Health has put in place additional safety measures to handle cargo.
- Old Mutual is giving **free life insurance** worth R10,000 to 430 000 registered health workers (totalling over R4 billion). The cover has no exclusions and will include death related to any cause.
- Some insurers have **stopped selling retrenchment** cover as the novel coronavirus threatens to accelerate the rate of unemployment in the country. Insurance to cover retrenchments is not widely available in South Africa. Of the big five listed insurers, only Liberty and Old Mutual offer it Liberty confirmed on Wednesday (8 April) that its retrenchment cover is no longer open for new business. Liberty also underwrites Frank.net, another smaller insurer that offers retrenchment cover. This insurance product normally covers a portion of people's salaries, usually up to 75% for six months after involuntary retrenchment.

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April, with protocols in place to contain the spread of COVID-19. It remains unclear if the lockdown will be extended beyond then, but the mining industry is planning to reboot as quickly as possible.

[Back to top](#)

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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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