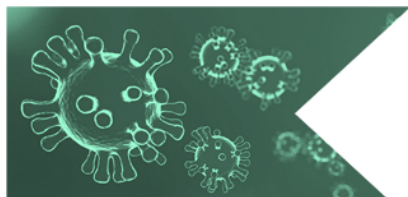


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## **SAMED COVID-19 NEWS** south african medical technology industry association

**COVID-19 news from SAMED, Government and Abroad.**

### **INDEX:**

1. [SAMED on COVID-19](#)
  - 1.1. [COVID-19 products and company information portal.](#)
  - 1.2. [SAMED library.](#)
  - 1.3. [SAMED FAQ](#)
2. [COVID-19 Updates, Notices, Legislation & Regulations](#)
  - 2.1. [ITAC rebate applications](#)
  - 2.2. [Regulatory status of equipment being used to help prevent COVID-19](#)
  - 2.3. [SAHPRA medical device hotline](#)
  - 2.4. [SAHPRA web resources](#)
  - 2.5. [Minister of Health COVID-19 response](#)
  - 2.6. [Reserve Bank cuts repo rate by 1% point](#)
  - 2.7. [Relief funding and loans](#)
  - 2.8. [BSA update: call to pay SMEs](#)
  - 2.9. [The solidarity fund](#)
3. [COVID-19 Events](#)
  - 3.1. [SA SMMEs in the regional & international context: finding solutions to the COVID-19 crisis](#)
  - 3.2. [COVID-19 policy for your workplace](#)
4. [COVID-19 Developments](#)

### **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](https://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

**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 measure. The BSA procurement team will always supply you with your security code that only you have access to on the portal. See the video for reference as to where to find this code. Please never share or 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](mailto: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](#)

**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 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 Maliaga with the correspondence copied to Mohamed Vawda on all ITAC related issues.

- Marius Collins [mcollins@itac.org.za](mailto:mcollins@itac.org.za)
- Lufuno Maliaga [lmaliaga@itag.org.za](mailto:lmaliaga@itag.org.za)
- Mohamed Vawda [MVawda@economic.gov.za](mailto: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](#).

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### **UPDATED COVID-19 NOTICES, LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS**

#### **ITAC Rebate Applications**

Subsequent to our engagement with ITAC, the [Standard Operating Procedure \(SOP\)](#) was amended to make it more user friendly.

The "[List of Relevant Tariff Codes](#)", what is termed the "[List of Critical Supplies](#)" on ITAC's website, sets forth goods for use in combating the COVID-19 virus. This list was established by ITAC in terms of Rebate Item 412.11 to the Customs and Excise Act, 1964. Only the goods in this list may benefit, subject to a completed and approved application form, from a full rebate of customs duties.

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all goods in the list of essential goods. In particular, goods benefiting from a duty under Schedule 1 (ordinary customs duty) or a duty under Schedule 2 (trade remedies customs duties, i.e. anti-dumping, countervailing and safeguard duties) of the Customs and Excise Act, 1964, are not and will not be eligible for inclusion in the List of Critical Supplies (and consequently a full rebate of customs duties)

In terms of what is meant by the condition "party who is not entitled to any privileges", kindly note the following:

Rebate item 412.11 states that goods imported under the rebate item "shall not be sold or disposed of to any party who is not entitled to any privileges under the rebate item". Although the provision allows for limitations to be placed on the party to which goods imported under the rebate item may be sold to or disposed of, currently no such limitations are in place. Consequently, goods imported under rebate item 412.11 may be sold or disposed of to any person (natural or juristic) in South Africa for consumption in South Africa.

**Please note that we are trying to expedite the processing of [412.11 rebate applications](#) and informs applicants, by copying them in the email Certificate to SARS, as soon as the certificate is issued. However, it would assist greatly if applicant submits one application, which caters for their estimated requirements of all qualifying import goods up until 31 May 2020. This will assist greatly with the administration of the rebate provision.**

In addition, the following represents some of the pertinent information required in the application form:

1. As per Question 3 of the ITAC application form, kindly confirm whether the statistical unit relating to the quantity applied for in your application is provided in kg or units. It should be noted that quantity applied for should be provided in kg as per SARS statistical unit of measure for HS Code 6307.90.;
2. Following from above, the specific volumes (in Kg's) and values (in Rands) in your application should be informed by i.e. off-take orders from buyers or substantiated methodology that supports the volume applied for as well corresponding value; and
3. A written undertaking indicating that goods are imported for relief of distress of persons in case of famine or other national disasters.

It should be borne in mind that the validity period of the email certificate's validity period will be from the day that the application was submitted until 31 May 2020, which means that the customs duty will be rebated for any clearances made during that period. It would be more appropriate to await the issuing of a certificate subsequent to lodging an application with ITAC before clearing the goods in question.

However, in exceptional circumstances, it is my understanding that once qualifying applicants, that have submitted their applications under rebate item 412.11, receive their certificate after they have cleared they would be able to approach SARS in terms of dealing with these clearances.

Successful applicants should take note that due to the current lockdown and inaccessibility to certain services, the email (Certificate) serves as the ITAC certificate. ITAC and SARS have agreed that an email (certificate) is all that is required of ITAC to enable an importer to claim a full refund of customs duties. The CIPC attachment to this email Certificate is included in the email to SARS to enable SARS to verify that applicants were approved for participation under rebate item 412.11.

For a VAT exemption, it was agreed that ITAC would issue a global certificate covering the critical goods as listed on ITAC's website, which has been provided to SARS. This global certificate would cover every entry for goods on the essential goods list except for the carve-out that was agreed upon. **Accordingly, no (individual) ITAC certificate is required for a VAT exemption.**

Please note that ITAC is dealing with applications and queries as fast as they are able.

**Please download the [ITAC lockdown communique](#) which lists important key contacts at ITAC.**

[Back to top](#)

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**[NRCS - SAHPRA - SABS on Regulatory Status of Equipment Being Used to Help Prevent \(COVID-19\)](#)**

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It is paramount that the regulatory status of such devices and equipment is clearly articulated and disseminated to the industry. To assist manufacturers during the COVID-19 crisis, the South African Bureau of Standards (SABS) in collaboration with South African Health Products Regulatory Authority (SAHPRA), the National Regulator for Compulsory Specifications (NRCS), and the Department of Trade and Industry will provide support to manufacturers and distributors in respect of applicable standards and conformity assessments to assist them to prepare for the licensing and approval process. This includes:

- Hand Sanitisers, Hand Gels, Surface Sanitisers, Antiseptics, Disinfectants and Germicides
- General, Surgical (Medical) Face Masks and Respiratory Protective Devices (Respirators)
- Surgical, Examination and General Gloves

If you are an importer or manufacturer of the above items, please download the full communication [here](#).

[Back to top](#)

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### SAHPRA Medical Device Hotline

SAHPRA has launched a COVID-19 Medical Device Hotline to deal with COVID-19 related queries.



The graphic is a white rounded rectangle with a blue border. At the top center is the SAHPRA logo, which consists of the letters 'SAHPRA' in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. Below the logo, the full name 'South African Health Products Regulatory Authority' is written in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font. Below the logo and name, the text 'SAHPRA COVID-19 Medical Device Hotline' is written in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. Underneath this, the text 'Commencing on Tuesday 14 April 2020, The SAHPRA Medical Device Hotline will be active. Direct all COVID-Related queries relating to Medical Devices to the following Hotline numbers.' is written in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font. Below this text, three phone numbers are listed in a blue, sans-serif font: '084 220 8037', '072 993 2273', and '078 281 6334'. Below the phone numbers, the text 'Hours of Operation: (Excluding weekends and public holidays)' is written in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. Underneath this, the hours '08:00 – 16:00' are listed in a blue, sans-serif font. At the bottom center of the graphic is a blue circular icon containing a white silhouette of a headset with a microphone.

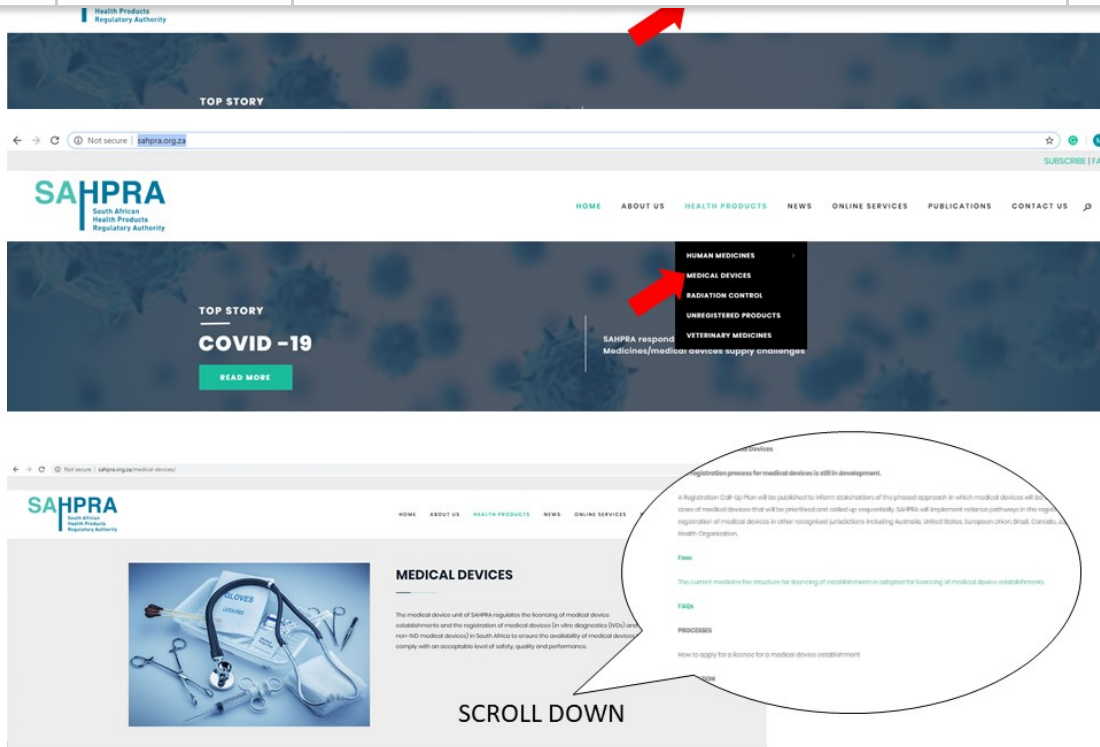
Download this notice, [here](#).

[Back to top](#)

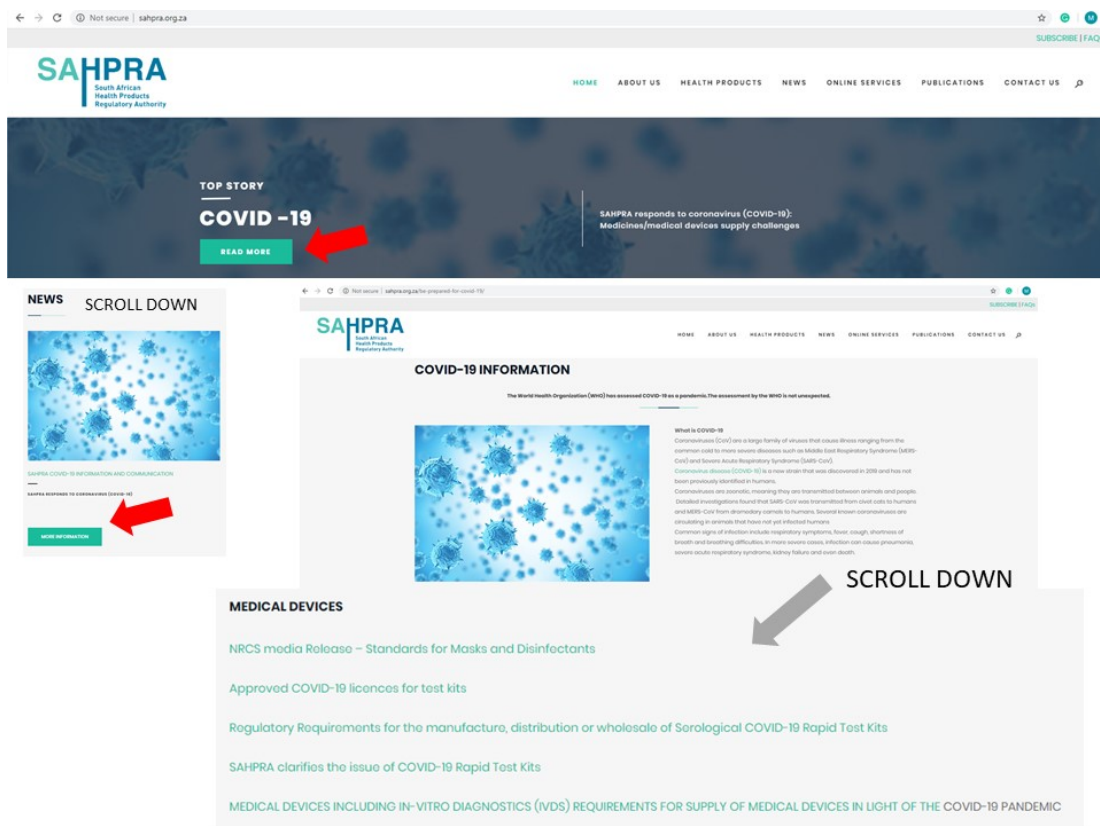
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### Make use of the SAHPRA web resources

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](http://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 the [www.sahpra.org.za](http://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.



For matters directly related to COVID-19, please contact SAHPRA on their medical device COVID email: [mdcovid@sahpra.org.za](mailto:mdcovid@sahpra.org.za)

[Back to top](#)

**Zweli Mkhize holds engagement on COVID-19 response**

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### Reserve Bank again cuts repo rate by 1 percentage point

The SA Reserve Bank has cut the repo rate by 100 basis points, or one percentage point. This brings SA's repo rate to 4.25%. The cut will be effective from April 15. This comes after the bank brought the scheduled May meeting of its Monetary Policy Committee forward to respond to the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on SA's economy. The bank's decision will also lower the prime lending rate to 7.75%.

Download the notice [here](#).

[Back to top](#)

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### Relief Funding and Loans

There are a number of funding and loan initiatives targeting varying SMEs. Each relief initiative has certain criteria and an affiliated application process.

Download the overview [here](#).

[Back to top](#)

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### Business For SA Update - Call to pay SMEs

The extended lockdown will deepen the economic and societal impacts of COVID-19 for South Africans. But the need to prevent loss of life and a surge of infections outweighs the economic consequences. The decision by the President to advance the evaluation of those sectors of the economy that should restart urgently is supported. This will be one of the enablers for a phased recovery as quickly as practically possible.

There are approximately 524 000 formal SME's, employing 6.6 million people in South Africa. Given the lockdown, the vast majority are unable to pay their rental, utilities, and importantly their employees. Initial surveys bear this out: 60% of SMEs are considering retrenching employees or already have (Sasfin and SME Africa survey). This is a significant threat to the SA economy, with many millions of jobs at risk. BSA therefore call on all corporates and government to pay their SME creditors by Monday, 20 April 2020.

Read the full update [here](#).

[Back to top](#)

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### 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](http://www.solidarityfund.co.za)

For more information email [info@solidarityfund.co.za](mailto:info@solidarityfund.co.za)

For offers of supply of Medicines and Medical Devices send

to [covid19supplies@businessresponsecovid19.co.za](mailto:covid19supplies@businessresponsecovid19.co.za)

If you are seeking PPE for your hospital, clinic, or NGO please email your request

to [covid19requests@businessresponsecovid19.co.za](mailto:covid19requests@businessresponsecovid19.co.za)

[Back to top](#)

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## COVID-19 EVENTS

### South African SMMEs in the regional and international context: finding solutions to the Covid-19 crisis

You are invited to a Zoom webinar. Ecosystem Development for Small Enterprise (EDSE) programme, an EU-funded programme working with the Department of Small Business Development to improve South Africa's SMME ecosystem. They are hosting a series of policy webinars focused on finding solutions for SMMEs during the COVID-19 pandemic. This coming Friday's discussion is focused on SMMEs in the international context, with a specific focus on PPE production.

## COVID-19 policy for your workplace

EECMS is hosting a webinar on COVID-19 policy for your workplace at no cost at 10:00 on Thursday 16 April 2020. Please note that only the first 300 delegates will be able to attend. The webinar will cover:

### EMPLOYMENT EQUITY:

- Employment Equity (training on the EE Act, 45 minutes)

### CORONA VIRUS AND THE IMPACT ON YOUR BUSINESS:

- Repercussions of allegations about a person's COVID-19 status;
- Employers and Trade Unions working together to give employees some respite during the National lockdown;
- Train your staff immediately of the COVID19;
- Train your staff of your Clients' new policies in order to accommodate COVID19;
- Advise your staff of cleaning material to clean their hands;
- Stop using the old system where we exchange pens', books etc;
- Supply or advise staff where to get an **alcohol-based** hand, device, board, table, computer, computer keyboards etc.
- Conduct inductions and allow employees' to sign for the induction as per COVID19 precautionary measures

Click on the link should you like to join this meeting: <https://eecms.zoom.us/j/895378993>

Remember to click on the link and ONLY join the meeting 15 MINUTES before the meeting starts, and not today. Also, remember to diarise this event in your Outlook and/or other online diaries.

For more information contact Christiaan Pieter du Toit [cp@eecms.co.za](mailto:cp@eecms.co.za)

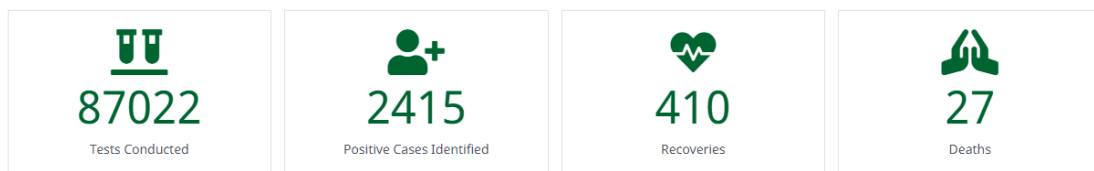
[Back to top](#)

## COVID-19 DEVELOPMENTS

### TRACKING THE PANDEMIC

- South Africa has recorded an increase of 143 more COVID-19 infections, bringing the total to 2 415 confirmed cases on Tuesday afternoon. No new deaths were confirmed, meaning the death toll remains at 27.
- Twelve staff members, including seven healthcare workers, have tested positive for the coronavirus at Mediclinic Morningside in Sandton, the private hospital group has confirmed. It is trying to identify all staff, doctors and patients who have potentially been exposed. The hospital will disinfect areas which are considered to be a risk and have put in place an access control policy, which will also affect emergency admissions. This comes after Netcare St Augustine's Hospital in KZN has been closed to all new patients following an outbreak which saw 47 staff members test positive for the virus. Five have died of coronavirus.

### COVID-19 Statistics in South Africa



### ECONOMIC AND OTHER RESPONSES TO THE PANDEMIC

- The South African Reserve Bank (SARB) has [cut its repo rate by another 100 basis points, taking it to 4.25% — a record low](#). And it now sees the South African economy contracting 6.1% in 2020 — the biggest loss of output since the Great Depression. The Reserve Bank is clearly concerned about the growth of bad loans and debt for households and companies that have lost income and revenue streams to the lockdown, compromising their ability to make timely repayments.
- The [government has told the SAA business rescue](#) practitioners that it is unable to provide the airline with further funding, portending its imminent death or at best an orderly winding down. It

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- banks. SA Express, also state-owned, is in liquidation.
- Many African countries have introduced lockdowns in order to halt the spread of coronavirus, but, as [Alex de Waal and Paul Richards argue, ordinary people have to be involved in choosing the solutions](#) that will work for them. Public health officials developed a useful guide during the Aids epidemic: "Know your epidemic, know your response, and act on its politics." It is useful to think of COVID-19 not as a single global pandemic, but as a simultaneous outbreak of innumerable local epidemics, each one slightly different.
  - US President Donald Trump cut off funding to the World Health Organization, accusing the UN body of mishandling the coronavirus crisis and of "severely mismanaging and covering up the spread of the coronavirus." The US contributed \$400 million to the WHO last year.
  - Anthony Fauci, head of the US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, said public health officials must be able to test for the virus quickly, isolate new cases and track down new infections before social-distancing restrictions can be eased. Trump's administration has floated 1 May as a possible date to start reopening some areas. Fauci said that date may be "[a bit overly optimistic](#)."

### CLINICAL, SCIENCE AND NEWS ON THE SOCIAL ASPECTS OF THE PANDEMIC

- During yesterday's [Business for South Africa media briefing](#) speakers warned that the country has about four weeks' worth of stock left for frontline medical staff and other essential health workers. The other gaps left include:
  - 11 million aprons
  - 160,000 goggles or face shields
  - 5 million biohazard bags
  - 22 million gowns
  - 10 million N95 respirators
  - 21 million surgical masks for health-care workers.
- GSK and Sanofi, two of the world's biggest pharmaceuticals, are joining forces to try and create a [vaccine](#) to stop the spread of COVID-19. Even if it is successful, the vaccine will not be ready until the second half of next year. GSK CE Emma Walmsley promised that the company would not show any net profit from vaccine sales and along with future research investment, GSK would use any profits to subsidise vaccine deliveries to developing countries.
- GSK, Sanofi and 13 other life sciences companies like BD and Boehringer Ingelheim have also joined the global [Therapeutic Accelerator](#) initiated by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. As a first step, the companies have agreed to share their proprietary libraries of molecular compounds that already have some degree of safety and activity data and quickly screen them for potential use against COVID-19. Successful hits would move rapidly into in vivo trials in as little as two months.



# 10-16 April

**If we reach more than 90 new cases per day, lockdown will continue.**

(Average new daily cases last week was 67)

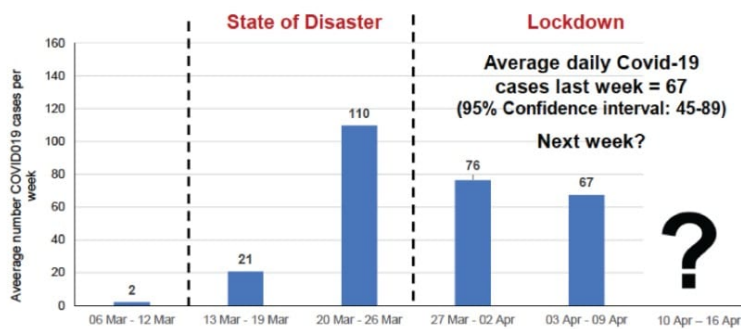


SAVE SOUTH AFRICA

TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT THE CORONAVIRUS

## What should we do this week?

**Follow the lockdown rules and monitor community transmission by average daily cases & community positivity/screened**



Learn more to Be READY for #COVID19:  
[www.sacoronavirus.co.za](http://www.sacoronavirus.co.za)
NICD Hotline: 0800 029 999  
WhatsApp 'Hi' to 0600 123 456



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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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