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SAMED COVID-19 NEWS south african medical technology industry association

COVID-19 news from SAMED, Government and Abroad.

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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.

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) 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 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](#).

UPDATED COVID-19 NOTICES, LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS

The latest amendment to Lockdown Regulations

The Lockdown Regulations have again been amended - the amendments that are of implication for the health sector are as follows:

- No visitors allowed in treatment centres etc. operating under social development (reg 7);
- For occupational health practitioners, you may be called upon to do fitness to work assessments as part of the partial reopening of energy, petroleum and mining services (reg 11J);
- Transportation of essential goods and cargo at ports of entry, and exports to prevent congestion, is permitted (reg 11B((1)(a)(bb));
- Hardware products and vehicle components (e.g. for ambulances) can commence, but lists and declarations of buyers are required (reg 11B91)(g) - form 4 must be used);
- MoH may designate services as essential by Directive (reg 114A(b)) (NOTE: this opens the possibility to request MoH for such designation, e.g. for services not necessarily life-saving, but important);
- No residential evictions, whether in formal or informal settlements, may take place (reg 11CA);
- Contraventions are offences that could attract a fine or imprisonment of up to 6 months (reg 11G and 11J);
- Health call centres NECESSARY for health are added to the list of essential services, as well as plumbers, electricians and locksmiths (Annexure B, Part B).

Three Important COVID-19 Updates

There are three important COVID-19 updates within the healthcare space:

1. COVID **emergency telephone number is 111**. It can also be WhatsApp's and sms'ed and is reserved for emergencies related to COVID-19.
2. Minutes of the **Parliamentary Portfolio Committee briefing on COVID-19 is available for download [here](#)**. A brief summary is provided below.
3. The CMS **PMB Benefit Definition** document relating to COVID-19, including ICD10 coding and the very important instruction that schemes must fund **Telehealth for PMBs** (or as they describe it "at PMB level of care", which the law in reg 8 says is "in full"). **Download the notice [here](#)**.

SUMMARY OF PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE BRIEFING 10 APRIL 2020:

- *Slides relating to the confirmed cases per province (geo mapped) have been made available. These reflect data on 8/9 April and the pictures will not look substantially worse than portrayed.*
- *It was stressed that any "current" case number tells you about the epidemic from two weeks ago.*
- *The number of contact tracers South Africa is 2 600, who have identified 9 547 contacts, of whom 8 341 (87.4%) were found and are monitored.*
- *There are 1308 Community screening and testing teams*
- *Researchers anticipate that a surge in the pandemic will occur.*
- *To respond to the requirement for additional bed capacity, field hospital sites have been identified for the provinces most affected*
- *IT systems are in place to allocate HR, and retired professionals have been asked to volunteer*
- *The Department plans to introduce rapid testing kits.*
- *On **PPE supply**, each province has sufficient supply, however, stocks are "very low". A "big problem" is that relies mainly on **local suppliers**, the majority of whom have "very limited capacity".*
- *The briefing also addresses the St Augustine's matter, where it appeared that the HCPs carried the infection, as the patient was isolated. [NOTE: since the 10th, two further hospitals had outbreaks and two pharmacies have closed due to infections.]*
- *The MoH said that they would "**commandeer the use of private beds**" and "determine the prices thereof - all in the spirit of cooperation.*
- *The MoH is working with a private-sector **pharmaceutical workstream**. [NOTE: It is however incorrectly stated that companies can "compare prices" - this is not permissible under the Competition Act exemptions as published earlier this month]*
- *The DoH may move stock from the private to the public sector.*
- *There is a **task team dedicated to procurement**.*
- *With current stocks, SA has the capacity for about 600 000 tests, which would cover us for the "next couple of weeks".*
- *Provinces to start creating "fever or flu clinics" to attend to persons exhibiting respiratory symptoms, isolate and treat.*
- *The public should be wearing cloth masks, and keep surgical and N95 masks for HCPs.*

During question time:

- *The issue of moonlighters in health facilities, who could transmit the virus, was raised and the MoH stated that staff will be tested and traced to prevent cross-contamination*
- *If the curve is not flattened, the strategy is to put up additional beds and divert possible infected persons away from hospitals, so that one is ready for a peak and to prevent the health system from being overwhelmed*
- *In terms of the regulation of the private sector, the Minister indicated that they have the authority to regulate them. Licences are done by the government and handled at the national level, but this will be delegated to the provinces.*

Download the policy briefing [here](#).

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SAHPRA Medical Device Hotline

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



SAHPRA COVID-19 Medical Device Hotline

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.

084 220 8037

072 993 2273

078 281 6334

Hours of Operation: (Excluding weekends and public holidays)

08:00 – 16:00

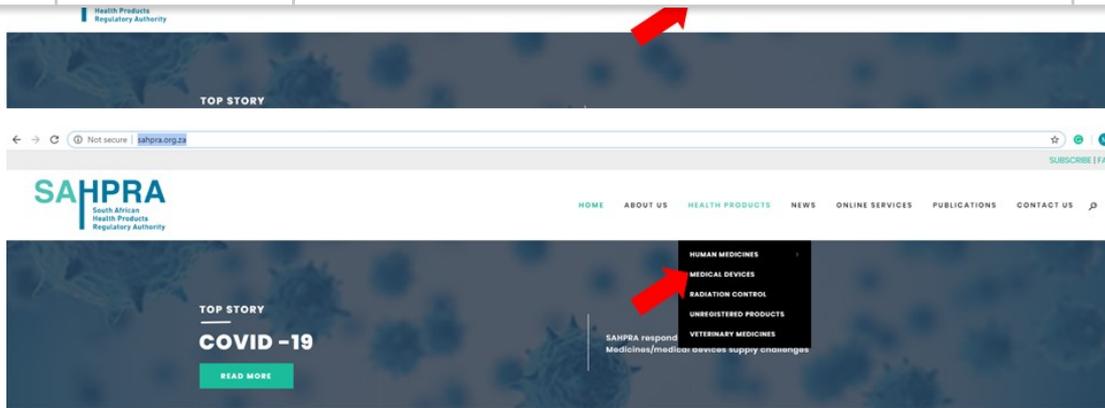


Download this notice, [here](#).

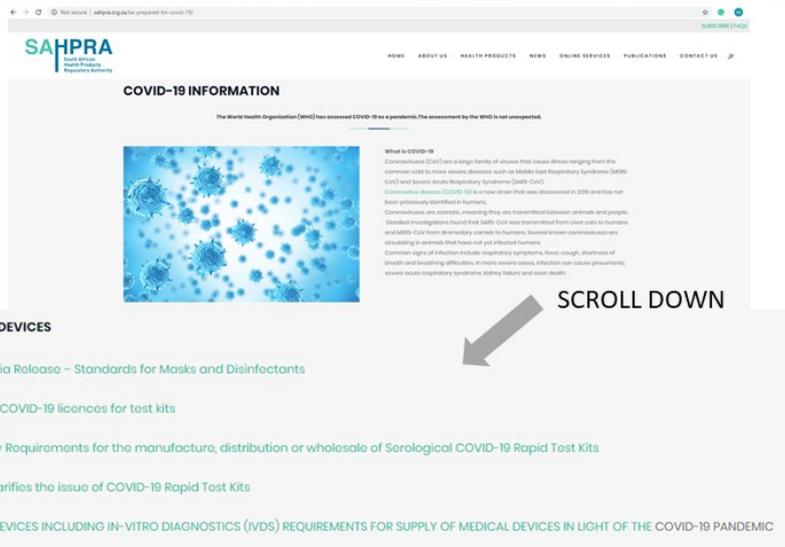
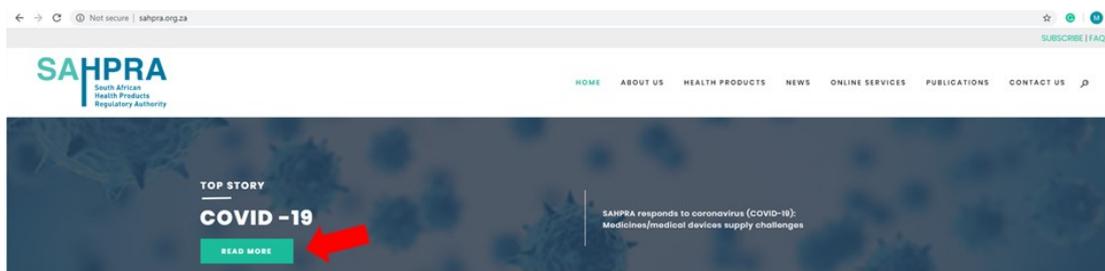
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Make use of the SAHPRA web resources

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 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.



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

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CEO Initiative: Media Statement

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Tshabalala, a member of the CEO Initiative SteerCo, and CEO of Standard Bank says, "These are extraordinary times that require extraordinary commitment from CEOs and large corporates. The Government has asked South Africans to stay home under a 35-day lockdown. This is tough for every individual, and every business, but most especially difficult for small and medium enterprises."

"They are under enormous strain and we are already seeing many businesses having to close their doors, which has a significant impact on their ability to sustain their employees. Even outside of the lockdown, many of these businesses often do not have the cash flow needed in order to maintain sustainability. We believe early payment is the right thing to do and will have a significant impact on their ability to survive and keep paying their employees."

View the media statement [here](#).

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Recommended Guidelines for Fabric Face Masks

A 'fabric' face mask for the general public is only part of a broader solution to curb the spread of COVID-19 and it must always be used in combination with other hygienic methods of prevention. Such masks are not a replacement for other recommended precautionary measures.

There has been much debate globally about the use of face masks for non-Health Care Professionals (non-HCP) during the COVID-19 pandemic. By refining some of the lessons from various sources, it is possible to arrive at a set of interim guidelines for the use of masks by the general public in South Africa. These guidelines serve as a set of recommendations for the South African clothing and textile industry when making masks for use by the general public.

Fabric or 'cloth masks' do not fall in the same category as surgical or medical masks. Cloth masks cannot prevent the risk of contracting the virus in aerosol form. The shortage of medical-grade masks globally and in South Africa means members of the public should not to use these critical resources at the expense of frontline health workers. It is believed that if the fabrics and filters used in the fabric of cloth masks are chosen suitably, these masks can play an important role in reducing the community transmission of the virus.

Download the full guidelines [here](#).

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BSA Update - Protocols for appropriate use of face masks

Following their call for medical-grade masks to only be used for frontline healthcare workers, BSA has issued a guideline approved by the National Department of Health and the NICD, provide clarity on the appropriate use of cloth masks by non-health care workers and the public. Please note that medical-grade masks, including N95 respirators and surgical masks, SHOULD ONLY be used by frontline doctors, nurses and community health care workers. Everyone else should use well-made cloth masks. BSA noted that masks are an effective way to stop the spread.

Download the BSA update [here](#).

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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

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 EVENTS

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

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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.

When: 11:00 -12:30, 17 April 2020

View the agenda [here](#).

Download the invitation [here](#).

To receive the Zoom link email Thami on Thami.Obozua@thepalladiumgroup.com

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COVID-19 DEVELOPMENTS

TRACKING THE PANDEMIC

There are 2 506 confirmed COVID-19 cases in South Africa, with 34 deaths recorded.

Prof Salim Abdool Karim says that [this week is critical](#) in terms of measuring the impact of SA's lockdown and indicate whether these measures have had an impact on the rate of COVID-19 infections. This past weekend, 460 000 people were screened for high temperatures and of this group, thousands had been tested for COVID-19. As a result, the number of tests have "skyrocketed" and the number of cases now will be higher than in previous weeks.

The chart from the WHO shows the current global COVID-19 count. There are 2 000 984 infections and more than 137 000 fatalities (according to <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html>).



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

- South Africa has [less than half the ventilators](#) that will be needed to treat patients at the peak of the COVID-19 crisis. The Health Department's estimates show South Africa currently has 3 216 ventilators, with 2 105 or roughly two-thirds, in the private sector. It puts the projected need at 7 000, based on modelling of the epidemic that puts the peak demand for hospital beds in June. Health Department acting director-general, Anban Pillay said the department had placed orders with suppliers for additional ventilators, and several initiatives were underway to develop domestic production of these devices. **Business for SA (BSA)** [said a design](#) for a locally manufactured ventilator and approved by clinicians will be made public **within days**.
- Witkoppen Clinic in northern Johannesburg said it had seen an [increase in the number of patients seeking ARV therapy](#) over the past two weeks. Clinic head Jean Bassett says: "They are coming because of COVID-19 ...which seems to be a far more fearful outcome than HIV." Bassett hoped the pandemic would serve as a "wake-up call" for HIV patients to "take responsibility" and start medication.
- The US National Academy of Sciences and a report out of China are **dampening hopes that – as happens with colds and the flu – the new coronavirus might begin to fade with hotter weather**. "Given that countries currently in 'summer' climates, such as Australia and Iran, are experiencing rapid virus spread, a decrease in cases with increases in humidity and temperature elsewhere should not be assumed," according to experts at the National Academy of Sciences (NAS). And a new study conducted between early January and early March in 224 coronavirus-endemic cities across China supports that notion. It found that coronavirus transmission did not seem to change with fluctuations in daily temperature or humidity. According to a new Harvard

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be discharged from hospital, the road to recovery can still be a lengthy one. The latest report into patients admitted into critical care for coronavirus so far in England, Wales and Northern Ireland showed that of 2 249 patients for whom data was available, only 344 (15%) had been discharged alive. A similar number had died (346 patients), while the majority – the remaining 1 559 – were still in critical care.

ECONOMIC AND OTHER RESPONSES TO THE PANDEMIC

- [Cabinet needs more time to finalise an economic recovery plan](#) for South Africa. Government was expected to give details on what relief measures will be added to initiatives that have already been announced and confirm whether any sectors, apart from essential services, would return to trading. After listening to presentations from the different clusters, including the economic and investment sectors, the government needs more time to consult and discuss proposals.
- Parliament said yesterday that committees with portfolios directly affected by COVID-19 would be asked to intensify their oversight engagements, especially during the lockdown period. The committees that Speaker of the National Assembly Thandi Modise identified included cooperative governance and traditional affairs; **health**; police; **trade and industry**; the Joint Standing Committee on Defence; basic education; **higher education**, science and technology; **transport**; small business development; finance; appropriations; employment and labour; human settlements, water and sanitation and **social development**.

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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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