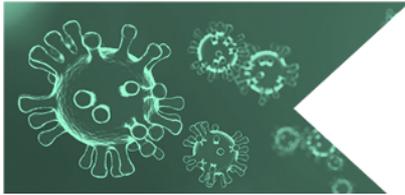


✉ Share this with those who need to know



SAMED COVID-19 NEWS

south african medical technology industry association

COVID-19 news from SAMED, Government and Abroad.

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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

Online portal to boost access to essential medical COVID-19 supplies

As part of the Business for South Africa (BSA) initiative, and with technical assistance from Tencent South Africa, the South African Medical Technology Industry Association (SAMED) has created a live online portal for companies to upload details of the COVID-19 supplies and equipment they are able to provide. Essentially, this becomes a resource for procurement services supporting the health sector's COVID-19 response. The aim is to give buyers real-time data on stock availability, quality documentation and transparent conditions. [Read more](#).

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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.

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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 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](#)

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](#)
- [Questionnaire for Export Permit for COVID controlled Goods](#)

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

UPDATED COVID-19 NOTICES, LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS

COVID-19 export permit SOP

When you make your email submission, please include Export Permit Application in the subject line.

- For first time applications for export, applicants to complete [form IE230b](#) and the SARS tax certificate must be submitted.

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- The [export permit questionnaire](#) must also be completed; please indicate on the form if not applicable.
- Email applications to Marius Collins mcollins@itac.org.za and Lufuno Maliaga lmaliaga@itag.org.za

Please ensure that applications forms are fully completed, the measure of quantity must be in accordance with the tariff heading, for example, medicines of tariff heading 30.04 is measured in kilograms (KG). If forms are not fully completed the application will be incomplete and may be delayed due to insufficient information to process the application.

The permit is valid for 6 months and therefore the full 6-month quantity should be included. If there are fixed quantities and fixed orders these should be added.

Download the SOP [here](#).

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SAHPRA specification criteria for COVID-19 serological test kits

Initial specifications for serological test kits have been published by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Authority (MHRA) based on current information. SAHPRA has adopted the MHRA specification criteria for serology/antibody point of care test (POCT) only. This is a specification of the minimally (and some preferred options) clinically acceptable specifications for POCT tests to be made and/or used in South Africa during the current COVID-19 pandemic caused by SARS-CoV-2 virus. It sets out the clinical requirements based on the consensus of what is 'minimally acceptable' performance in the opinion of the South African IVD industry, healthcare professionals and medical device regulators given the emergency situation.

Download the specifications [here](#).

SAMED is in the process of obtaining clarity on the approval and validation process. As soon as we have more information, it will be circulated.

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DTIC's Ministerial Taskforce on COVID-19 request information from suppliers of PPE

The DTIC's Ministerial Taskforce on COVID-19 requires support from medical textile suppliers who can support our health sector during the COVID-19 pandemic. In an effort to ensure an adequate supply of medical textiles (PPE) the Minister of the DTIC would like to understand the production capacity of these suppliers and the constraints they face to increase production as the pandemic progresses. The medical textile categories they are particularly interested in are:

- Surgical gowns
- Impenetrable gowns
- Disposable jumpsuits
- Disposable scrub suits
- Long theatre boots
- Overshoes
- Boot covers
- Caps
- Aprons
- Biohazard bags

If you locally manufacture and/or distribute these products please contact Dr Athi Msutu on athi@amqadvisory.com or 0726002654

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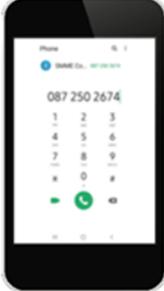
WhatsApp bot for SMME COVID-19 support goes live

To access this bot, save 087 250 2674 in your contacts. open a new chat in WhatsApp and type "Hi". This will then open automatically open a menu for more information on:

- Relief funding
- Tax relief
- Support by major banks
- Informal sector
- Other support

SMME #COVID-19 SUPPORT
WHATSAPP INFORMATION BOARD ON LATEST LIST OF SMME INITIATIVES - UPDATED DAILY

STEP 1



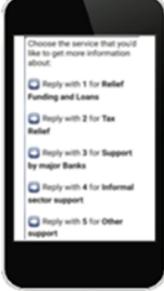
Save **087 250 2674** in your contacts
 Open a new chat in **WhatsApp**

STEP 2



Type **"Hi"**
 Chat will reply with a list of options for information available

STEP 3



Reply with **the #** for the option where you want information
 e.g., **"1"** for **"Relief funding and loans"**

STEP 4



PDF file will be sent to you in the WhatsApp chat.
Open the PDF to view information


 BUSINESS FOR SA | COVID-19

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Sukuma Relief Programme: SMMEs

Johan Rupert's Sukuma Relief Fund is aimed at assist SMMEs during the financially turbulent times. The way the programme works is entrepreneurs can get a one-off R25,000 grant that needn't be repaid. Small companies can get the R25,000 plus a low-interest loan of between R250,000 and R1m, with a 12-month repayment holiday.

Find out more about the programme [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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COVID-19: South African Competition Commission refers to the first case of price gouging to Competition Tribunal

Shortly after the declaration of COVID-19 as a national disaster, the South African Government published regulations addressing price gouging from a competition law perspective (Excessive Pricing Regulations). The Excessive Pricing Regulations prohibit dominant suppliers from charging excessive prices for certain specified goods and services (mainly basic food and consumer items, medical and hygiene supplies, and other emergency products and services).

The Competition Commission has warned that dominant firms found to be engaged in excessive pricing (click [here](#) for more) will be prosecuted and the Competition Tribunal has confirmed the procedure in terms of which it will deal with these cases (click [here](#) for more). The Commission has now referred its first COVID-19 excessive pricing case to the Tribunal.

The Commission alleges that a local manufacturer of medical face masks earned mark-ups in excess of 500% between 31 January 2020 and 5 March 2020, by increasing the price of a box of face masks from ZAR 41 to ZAR 500. It is also alleged that the manufacturer had increased its price by at least 888% during the period 9 December 2019 to 5 March 2020.

The Commission reports that the manufacturer's mark-up (but not prices) dropped significantly after 18 March 2020, following its supplier adjusting the price of key inputs. The supplier is under separate investigation. The Tribunal intends to hear the matter against the manufacturer on 24 April 2020.

The Regulations provide that a price increase by a dominant supplier of specified critical medical equipment and basic consumer goods will be 'a relevant and critical factor in determining whether a price is excessive or unfair' and indicates prima facie that the price is excessive or unfair in terms of the Competition Act, 1998, in circumstances where the price increase:

- does not correspond to, or is not equivalent to, an increase in cost; or
- increases the net margin or mark-up on the product or service above the average margin or mark-up in the three months prior to 1 March 2020.

Under the Act, dominant firms alleged to have engaged in excessive pricing must be able to demonstrate that the price charged was reasonable. If not, a penalty of up to 10% of the firm's annual turnover may be

Click [here](#) to read this and other articles by Bowmans.
Read more about this story [here](#).

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WCPP Adhoc Standing Committee on COVID-19

The Secretary to the Western Cape Provincial Parliament convened the first Ad-Hoc Committee on COVID-19 meeting. It will hold regular meetings in order to fulfil its mandate of performing oversight over the work of the provincial executive authority as it responded to the COVID-19 pandemic, including the work of any provincial department, provincial organ of state or provincial entity involved in activities dealing with the pandemic.

Ms M Wenger (DA) was elected Chairperson defeating Mr B Herron (GOOD) by eight votes to six. The Committee then formulated its priority themes which would direct its approach to address the COVID-19 pandemic in the Western Cape. Members agreed that food security was a major issue. In order to keep people informed, there was a need to communicate with those who were not linked to channels like the South African Social Security Agency or the Unemployment Insurance Fund, as well as communities in rural areas which were the most vulnerable. Meetings will be scheduled to focus on food security and health issues.

Download the minutes of this meeting, [here](#).

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BSA update on Medicines supply gaps

Last week BSA reported 41 medicines identified to have availability gaps. Over the course of the week, 29 of those gaps were addressed. However, following an update to the demand models against supply, 38 additional gaps were identified. The new gaps are detailed in their latest data request. BSA values your ongoing participation in this effort, especially around indicating potential ramp-up capacity (manufacture or import) for identified supply gaps.

Export permits for essential medicines for SADC

Following requests from some local manufacturers regarding delays in the processing of export permits for essential medicines destined for neighbouring countries, BSA raised the matter with the NDoH, SAHPRA, DTI and ITAC. Quick feedback from the discussion:

- The NDoH has requested that please use the INN name on the forms rather than brand names. This would help expedite the NDoH review process.
- We've also been informed that there may be additional scrutiny on essential drugs that are already in short supply in South Africa, but this will be communicated.

Read the update [here](#).

IMPORTANT CALL TO ALL BUSINESSES

We call on all businesses to **DO THE RIGHT THING** and put our people first.

PLEASE:

- Pay employees' salaries in full and as quickly as you can
- Pay your SMME suppliers on time and in full
- Support local business wherever you can
- If you have the means, support local charities or the Solidarity Fund
- Only apply to the UIF if you are eligible



BUSINESS FOR SA | COVID-19



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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

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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

Free Webinar: BEE ownership for small and medium-sized businesses

From 09:00- 11:00 on Friday 24 April, Transcend will host a free webinar on BEE ownership. They understand that right now your energy and focus is on surviving and protecting your business and its employees. At the same time, it remains important to consider how to structure your business to remain competitive and grow in a post-lockdown South Africa. A strong BEE scorecard will be important and this might include Black ownership in your business.

This free webinar will set out Transcend Capital's simplified and cost-effective BEE ownership options for small and medium-sized businesses.

[Click here](#) to register or email Werner Mennen on werner.mennen@transcendcapital.co.za for more information

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COVID-19 DEVELOPMENTS

TRACKING THE PANDEMIC

Latest figures for South Africa

The latest figures released by the Department of Health (Sunday 19 April) show:

- A total of 3 158 cases
- A total of 54 deaths

The number of new cases reported on Sunday was 124 higher than the number reported on Saturday, representing an apparent escalation in new cases. This is partly a consequence of the community screening and testing campaign which has seen some 900 000 people screened for the virus and 11 000 sent for testing. The Department of Health has indicated that about 3.8% of those tested were positive. (News24)

More than 900 people in South Africa have recovered from the coronavirus disease.

Hotspots for new infections include:

- Unilever factory in Boksburg: 34 workers infected (eNCA)
- Dischem store in Boksburg: 24 workers infected (eNCA and SAfm)
- Netcare Kingsway Hospital, Amanzimtoti – 10 workers infected (News 24)
- Mediclinic Morningside Clinic Sandton – 12 workers infected (News 24).

The international picture

There have been 2 334 139 reported COVID-19 infections around the world and 160 685 people have died, according to an AFP tally on Sunday, based on official sources.

- The United States has the most deaths of any country with over 40 000 fatalities.
- Italy is the second hardest-hit country, with 23 227 dead. Spain follows with 20 453, then France with 19 323 and Britain with 15 464.
- Spain registered a sharp drop in its daily death toll from the new coronavirus on Sunday, with the number falling to 410 from 565.

Top officials die in Guinea

Three senior Guinea officials have died from the coronavirus. They are Government Secretary-General Sekou Kourama, President of the Electoral Commission Salif Kebe and former Interpol head Victor Traore. (News 24)

ISSUES, PROJECTIONS & DEBATES

Number of cases and death rates

Discussions on CNN and BBC news channels over the weekend highlighted the extent to which the number of cases a country records and its death rate is a function of how extensive testing for the virus is.

was much larger because of proactive testing.

WHO modelling: Africa cases could hit 10 million

News 24 reports that the WHO has made tentative projections that coronavirus cases in Africa could surge to 10 million within three to six months. But Michel Yao, head of emergency operations for WHO Africa, said on Thursday it was a tentative projection that could change. He noted worst-case predictions for the Ebola outbreak had not come true because people changed their behaviour in time.

"This is still to be fine-tuned," he told a media teleconference. "It's difficult to make a long-term estimation because the context changes too much and also public health measures when they are fully implemented, they can actually have an impact."

Value of antibody tests

BBC reports that the World Health Organization has questioned whether antibody tests offer any guarantee of immunity. The UK has placed antibody tests – which check if someone has had Covid-19 – at the centre of an eventual "back-to-work" plan. But experts said they may not prove that someone is protected from reinfection. The UK government has already paid for millions of antibody tests, but has not yet found one that is reliable enough to use.

In the US, the Federal Drug Administration has approved four antibody tests, according to CNN. But many other tests have flooded the market and authorities are warning that they may give untrustworthy results and create a false sense of security among those using them.

POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

- **Focus on today's Cabinet meeting:** Many media have highlighted that Cabinet meets today to consider the social and economic impact of the lockdown – and the future of SAA. Daily Maverick reports that a R1-trillion stimulus package, agreed by business and labour at a Nedlac meeting last week, has been put to the government for consideration. There is strong speculation that the child support grant and possibly the old age pension will be increased temporarily to relieve hardship caused by the lockdown. The lead stories in South Africa's biggest newspapers were about widespread hunger ravaging the country (Sunday Times) and corruption – predominantly among ANC councillors – in the administration of food parcels (City Press). The Cabinet meeting follows last week's meeting of the President's national command council (NCC) which debated the balance between securing food supply in South Africa and containing the spread of COVID-19, according to Health Minister Zweli Mkhize. "We need to contain the virus by reducing the movement of people. We are very conscious of how this has a negative impact on the economy and food security. Whatever steps you will hear of in the next few days, you will know that we have taken these two issues into account," Minister Mkhize said.
- **No relaxation on liquor sale restrictions:** Over the weekend President Ramaphosa affirmed that the restrictions on the sale of alcohol would remain in place, despite court action initiated by the industry. He cited health and social considerations. (eNCA)
- **Schools and extensive testing for the virus:** News 24 reports on a leaked presentation that links the possible phased return of children to schools with mass testing at schools to detect the presence of the virus in families. It suggests that schools-based testing would be an efficient way for the health service to perform this function. (News24)
- **eThekweni's supervised quarantine:** The Premier of KwaZulu-Natal Sihle Zikalala has stated that eThekweni is the COVID-19 hotspot in the province and residents of the metro who require quarantining should no longer be allowed to self-quarantine and would instead be compelled to stay in government facilities until they test negative.
- **US tug of war over reopening the economy:** Reuters and various global news media reported that governors in states worst hit by the pandemic were "sparring" with President Trump about when to ease lockdown restrictions. Yesterday, in a few states where governors had extended lockdowns in opposition to the President's position, there were modest-sized public protests against the governors. (CNN)

ECONOMIC & BUSINESS IMPACTS

- **Sun International to cut salaries and temporarily lay off staff:** Sun International announced on Friday that, once restrictions were relaxed, only some staff would be returning to work (on limited shifts and with reduced pay) while other would be laid off temporarily" as the group ramps up to full operation. (News24)
- **Lockdown to burn a hole in Eskom finances:** Eskom expects to bleed up to R2.5 billion a month in revenue because of reduced demand in electricity by intensive users, and it's possible that the decline may continue after the lockdown period ends. (News 24)

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and suggest asymptomatic people with the coronavirus may be responsible for a high proportion of infections.

A study in the Californian county of Santa Clara found the number of undetected cases of Covid-19 could be as high as 50-85 for every confirmed case. This study used blood tests to look for antibodies to the virus. NICD expert Prof Cheryl Cohen said more specific testing now available made it possible to detect more asymptomatic cases.

A study by a team from the [University of Texas in Austin found a 50% likelihood](#) that if just one case of Covid-19 was confirmed, a sustained, undetected outbreak – an epidemic – was already happening.

In [Iceland, a study was conducted](#) on random citizens, mostly from the capital city of Reykjavik, which not only showed the benefit of aggressive and early screening and testing, but that around 50% of people tested were asymptomatic.

"What all of these studies are suggesting is that actually asymptomatic infections are much more prevalent than we thought," Prof Cohen explained. Significantly, South Africa has embarked on an aggressive programme of screening and testing, with healthcare workers going door to door in areas identified as possible hot spots, which Cohen says was recognition of the under-detection that may be occurring.

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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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