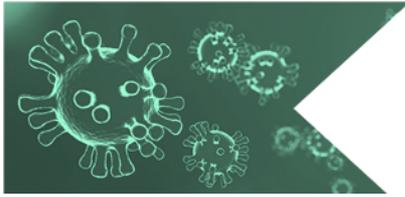


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SAMED COVID-19 NEWS

south african medical technology industry association

COVID-19 news from SAMED, Government and Abroad.

INDEX:

1. [SAMED on COVID-19](#)
 - 1.1. [SAMED library](#)
 - 1.2. [COVID-19 products and company information portal](#)
 - 1.3. [SAMED FAQ](#)
 - 1.3.1. [FAQs on Essential Goods, clearance and movement of goods and service](#)
 - 1.3.2. [FAQs on Employees' Tax, ETI and Provisional Tax](#)
2. [COVID-19 Updates, Notices, Legislation & Regulations](#)
 - 2.1. [The risk-based approach of re-opening the economy](#)
 - 2.2. [NRCS Mask Registration](#)
 - 2.3. [SAHPRA medical device hotline](#)
 - 2.4. [BSA update](#)
 - 2.5. [The solidarity fund](#)
3. [COVID-19 Events](#)
 - 3.1. [Free BEE Webinar for SMMEs](#)
 - 3.2. [Snap Session on COVID-19 and corporate governance](#)
4. [COVID-19 Related Product Requests](#)
 - 4.1. [Request for Infrared digital thermometer](#)
 - 4.2. [SA Distributor wanted: Ventilatory supplier](#)
5. [COVID-19 Developments](#)

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](#).

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

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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.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) relating to Essential Goods, clearance and movement of goods and service rendered by customs under the COVID-19 lockdown

- What is the difference between critical supplies and essential goods?
- What do we need to know about the importation of critical supplies or essential goods to the national state of disaster (COVID-19 pandemic)?
- Do I need to apply for the VAT exemption under rebate item 412.11?
- Where can I find the certificate issued in terms of Schedule 1(8) of the Value Added Tax Act, 1991, item 412.11/00.00/01.00 (RE: SARS Essential Goods List)?

Find the answer to these and other questions [here](#).

Disaster Management Tax Relief FAQ's for Employees' Tax, ETI and Provisional Tax

- Who are qualifying taxpayers?
- What are the requirements to claim the tax relief?
- What is the Employment Tax Incentive (ETI) tax relief?
- What is the Employees' Tax Deferral?

Find the answer to these and other questions [here](#).

COVID-19 UPDATES, NOTICES, LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS

The RISK-BASED approach of re-opening the economy

A slide set on the **re-opening of the economy has become available**, this will no doubt have been amended by tonight when the President is scheduled to announce this. It is referred to as the risk-adjusted strategy for economic activity. We highlight the most important slides (attached) below.

It is important for all of us as in the health sector as appears to show:

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- only activities that are life-saving or those large-scale health impacts (“population or part thereof”), which limits the operation of part of the health sector from being able to function at all, or in full.
- Some of the greater health sector falls under **personal and social services**, and/or under **professional services** (practices and pharmacies), and some fall under **pharmaceuticals/chemicals**, whilst others fall under **wholesale, or manufacturing**. This makes our sector unique, as opening manufacturing but not having a market for non-essential medicines will not help.
- The unique health sector also as a business, but as key in relation to **COVID-19 treatment (incl. hospital admissions)**, the possible need for beds and equipment also appear to not have been specifically considered from a business perspective (i.e. keeping hospitals “open” but not for anything but emergencies and COVID-cases. This makes it **distinct from the rest of the economy**, but the effects are severe in the non-essential services and non-essential health goods sectors.

Download the presentation [here](#).

Of importance in the slides are:

- **Slide 6:** Criterion of “low transmission AND severe impact OR high value sector
- **Slide 8** lists the sectors per criterion: Health & Social work would be where most practices would be placed, and only in economic linkage impact is the score high, but the % operational are indicated as ‘UNKNOWN’. For pharmaceuticals the % operational is quite high, but impacts are only medium, with export impact indicated as low. ***It is vitally important to have a picture for your specific sector as to what is open, and to what extent (e.g. only certain goods are moved, (some) staff are working remotely or practicing telehealth, etc).***
- **Slide 9** lists sectors per payroll impact, retrenchments, business closures and SME’s. For professional and pharmaceutical sectors, they deem the impact to be less severe.
- **Slide 10** lists the physical aspects of a business (or in our case, practices) and whether remote work would be possible.
- **Slide 12** lists in columns the impact on Professional Services and Pharmaceuticals, with Manufacturing having a higher score on the ability to provide PPE and the impact on the workforce.
- **Slide 15** lists further factors, namely transmission risk, how regulated and organised the sector is, how localised or low the movement of people is, and how enabling it is of other sectors or essential services.

It is strongly RECOMMENDED that all businesses and practices link into their professional and other associations, so as to get a better picture of the current levels of operation, the impact and also the possibilities for remote work, etc. to inform decision-makers on this matter.

The **uncertainties as to what exactly is “essential”** in our greater sector (not necessarily all activities or goods may be) must also be resolved, as well as the possibilities to re-organise work and/or work safely if a full or partially opened business.

[Back to top](#)

NRCS mask registration

There are a number of NRCS documents required for registration of masks, relevant to masks manufactured and imported.

- [Sales permit application](#)
- [Filtering device COP & routine tests](#)
- [Application for approval of a respiratory protective device](#)
- [Technical file for respiratory protective devices](#)
- [Items required for the approval of respiratory protective devices](#)
- [Test Reports](#)
- [Application for the extension of the approval of a respiratory protective device](#)

For more information contact: tando.magolego@nracs.org.za and Thomas.madzivhe@nracs.org.za

[Back to top](#)

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](#).

[Back to top](#)

BSA update: BSA expresses support for the fiscal stimulus measures

Business for South Africa (B4SA) - the alliance of volunteer resources from across South African business bodies and organisations, member companies large and small, including professional services firms - expresses its full support for President Cyril Ramaphosa's historic and significant R500 billion fiscal stimulus package, which is equivalent to some 10% of the country's GDP.

The three-phase plan announced by President Ramaphosa on 21 April 2020 directly aligns to the work being done by B4SA to find sustainable solutions to stabilise South Africa's economy, while at the same time addressing the current economic decline, protecting jobs and initiating a radical economic change plan. The President has finely balanced the fiscal stimulus package between relief for social stress, and an ongoing emphasis on protecting lives as well as stimulating economic regeneration.

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Further Coronavirus Economic Relief

1. Extraordinary budget for coronavirus response
2. Relief of hunger and social distress
3. Support for companies and workers
4. Phased re-opening of the economy

WHATSAPP SUPPORT
0800 123 456
EMERGENCY NUMBER
0800 029 999
sacoronavirus.co.za



Download the BSA update [here](#).

[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](#)

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

[Back to top](#)

Snap Session on COVID & Corporate Governance

At 10:00 on Friday 24 April 2020, Elsabe Klink & Associates will host a session, presented by Mike Judin of Judin Combrinck attorneys on COVID and corporate governance. There will be no charge for this session. Board members, compliance officers, regulatory- and legal heads, and those in company leadership teams are encouraged to participate. It will also be relevant to all entities structured as NPC's and all voluntary associations taking corporate governance seriously.

RSVP to eugenia@elsabeklinckassociates.co.za by Thursday 12:00.

[Back to top](#)

COVID-19 RELATED PRODUCT REQUESTS

pharma manufacturing facility. **If you are able to assist please contact James Meakings, Responsible Pharmacist, Azochem Laboratories Pty Ltd on james.meakings@azochem.co.za**

[Back to top](#)

South African distributor wanted: Ventilator supply for COVID 19

RespiratorsNZ is a New Zealand company which manufactures a Ventilator specifically for the COVID-19 response. Their product has been designed and manufactured to a RMVS001 Standard which is a NZ, Austria and UK standard specifically for rapid manufacture of Ventilators to assist save lives. They are looking to supply not only South Africa but all of Africa.

If you are interested in acting as a distributor for them, contact Georg Myburgh on +64 221 058 035 or support@respiratornz.co.nz. [Visit their website](#) for more information.

[Back to top](#)

COVID-19 DEVELOPMENTS

TRACKING THE PANDEMIC

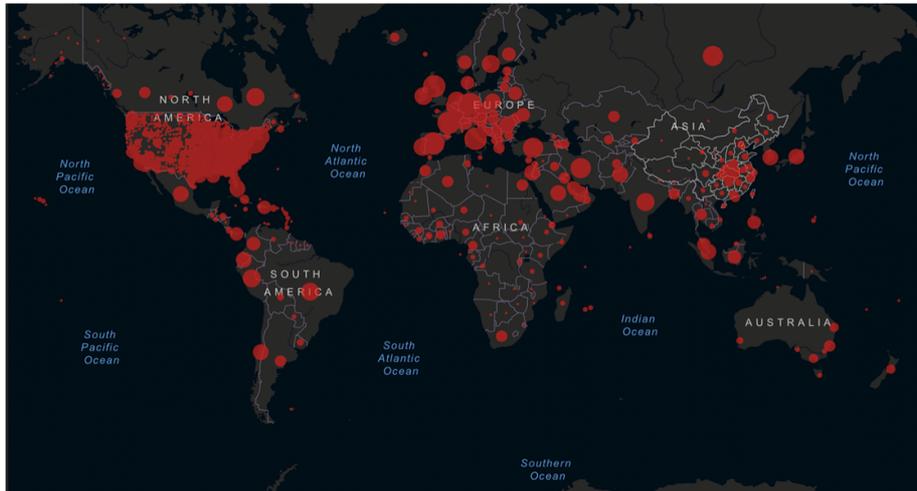
Latest South African COVID-19 cases, according to <https://www.covid19sa.org/>:



Global Current Covid-19 Count

By COVID-19 Dashboard by the Center for Systems Science and Engineering at Johns Hopkins University

2,593,129 Infections - 696,948 Recovered - 179,725 Deaths



ECONOMY

South Africa's tourism, aviation and creative arts industries will only be able to pay 5% of their staff at the end of May if the nationwide lockdown is extended, according to a leaked [draft discussion document prepared by the office of the presidency](#). The risk-adjusted approach is being finalised and will be elaborated on by the President Cyril Ramaphosa on Thursday evening.

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

- [Eskom is seeking low-carbon solutions](#) to repurpose the coal-fired stations that are scheduled for decommissioning, according to tender documents. Eskom has published an expression of interest for proposals, focusing on its Komati, Grootvlei and Camden coal-fired plants, to reduce "its environmental impact through the establishment of sustainable low-carbon industries at previous carbon-intensive power plants."

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UN secretary-general in January, 2017, said governments should use their fiscal firepower to drive a shift from “the grey to green” economy.

- The coronavirus [pandemic is expected to drive carbon dioxide emissions down 6%](#) this year, the head of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said on Wednesday, in what would be the biggest yearly drop since World War Two.
- Elevated levels of [nitrogen dioxide in the air may be associated with a high number of deaths](#) from COVID-19. A study by Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg (MLU) provides concrete data that back this assumption for the first time. The paper combines satellite data on air pollution and air currents with confirmed deaths related to COVID-19 and reveals that regions with permanently high levels of pollution have significantly more deaths than other regions.

EDUCATION AND SOCIAL

- [Childline counsellor](#) Nokulunga Mnisi says she has been inundated with calls about poverty and neglect since the start of the lockdown in the country - and the calls haven't just been from children. "Children are being left alone without parental supervision. We are seeing an 8-year-old having to take care of younger siblings. This is still a child – leaving a child alone is exposing them to COVID-19 because, for example, children roam around to neighbours seeking assistance," Mnisi said. "More children are being left alone during this lockdown. Parents are supposed to be there, but they are being left alone," she added. According to Mnisi, this proves that a lockdown does not shelter vulnerable children from abuse.
- [Institutions of higher learning](#) are resolute about resuming their academic programmes, but challenges with remote learning are impeding progress. Only a few universities resumed their academic programme on Monday 20 April, with many students still confronted with a multitude of challenges, including access to devices, data, and enabling learning environments. These were emphasised as key concerns during joint proceedings before the Higher Education Committee of the National Assembly and the Education and Technology, Sports, Arts and Culture Committee of the National Council of Provinces.

CLINICAL AND SCIENCE NEWS

- National Institute of Communicable Diseases' (NICD) updated estimates predict that [up to 45 000 South Africans are expected to die from COVID-19 over the next two to three years](#). The Times reports that this is according to one of the doctors advising President Cyril Ramaphosa, Professor Shabir Madhi, of Wits University who said: “We are not returning to normal for the next two to three years. Also, we should prepare ourselves for waves of the epidemic over that period and accept that intermittent lockdowns will become part of life.”
- Four public health experts (Lydia Cairncross, a public sector doctor and member of the People's Health Movement of SA; Louis Reynolds, a paediatric intensivist; Russell Rensburg, the Director of the Rural Health Advocacy Project; and Leslie London, a specialist in public health medicine) have urged Health Minister Zweli Mkhize to [address the gap between public and private health sectors](#) so that they function as one coordinated and centrally managed health service under the National Department of Health (NDOH) [health service is fragmented between the public and private sectors](#), deeply inequitable and highly inefficient. The authors call for the creation of a sub-committee to the Ministerial Advisory Committee on COVID-19 to focus specifically on the public-private interface.
- South Africa's ability to test for SARS-CoV-2 and treat the COVID-19 it causes has been "crippled" by the [decentralised procurement system, the National Treasury says](#). And that could affect decisions such as when lockdown ends. Now all orders for personal protective equipment (PPE) from public institutions will be centralised, with a national government team deciding which province or region gets what, if rationing is required. Government entities will pay only a set maximum price for gloves and masks, with the Solidarity Fund covering the rest of the bill if the goods cannot be bought at those prices.
- A race is underway to [source vitally needed masks and other personal protection](#) equipment (PPE) for health workers at the front line of the COVID-19 pandemic. With South Africa able to only produce 10% of the medical-grade masks it needs, a dual strategy of sourcing stock abroad and ramping up local production is underway, according to Stavros Nicolau, who heads up Business Unity SA's (BUSAs) healthcare workgroup.
- The Young Nurses Indaba Trade Union (YNIU), an affiliate of the South African Federation of Trade Unions (Safu), says it feels neglected by the government, having raised issues of a lack of personal protective equipment (PPE), expensive transport and "poverty-level" salaries. Department of Health spokesperson Popo Maja says if the union calls for a stay away, it will be "a criminal offence in line with the Disaster Management Act" which the police can look into.
- As of 8 April 2020, the [global COVID-19 vaccine R&D landscape includes 115 vaccine candidates](#), of which 78 are confirmed as active and 37 are unconfirmed (development status cannot be determined from publicly available or proprietary information sources). Of the 78 confirmed active projects, 73 are currently at exploratory or preclinical stages. A striking feature of the vaccine

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these platforms are not currently the basis for licensed vaccines, but experience in fields such as oncology is encouraging developers to exploit the opportunities that next-generation approaches offer for increased speed of development and manufacture.

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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. SAMEDI's members include individual medical technology companies, associate members and associations.

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