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COVID-19 news from SAMED, Government and Abroad.

PARTICIPATE IN THE SAMED 'INDUSTRY SUSTAINABILITY IN THE FACE OF ECONOMIC CHALLENGES SURVEY'

COVID-19 has impacted business in a significant way. SAMED is undertaking to better understand the impact it has had on the sustainability of the medtech sector considering the economic challenge companies have and will continue to face.

We hereby request that you participate in this important survey so that SAMED has the necessary data to understand the impact on jobs should members not be able to implement price increases due to increased cost impacts within the market.

SAMED will use the gathered information to open discussion with the private hospital groups and Funders outlining the concerns around the sustainability of the industry.

Please complete the survey [[click here](#)] by Wednesday 20th May 2020.

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](#).

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE 13 MAY 2020

President Ramaphosa addressed South Africa on Wednesday evening on South African's response to the coronavirus pandemic. In his speech, he acknowledged the tragedy of the lives lost to COVID-19. He also acknowledged the economic impact of the lockdown measures and how that has affected the livelihoods of many South Africans.

The president reiterated that the lockdown measures were absolutely necessary to curb transmission

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Foundations the immediate contribution of R250 million to South Africa's Solidarity Fund.

The President indicated that Alert Level 4 restrictions would be eased and that most of the country would be moved to Alert Level 3 by the end of May. Changes to alert level 4 regulations include expanding permitted business activities in the retail space and eCommerce and reduce restrictions on exercise.

It was clear that South Africa would need to get used to the new normal and continue to adjust behaviours to ensure that the spread of the virus continued at a manageable pace. He reaffirmed his commitment and the commitment of the government to take whatever action is necessary to safeguard the life, the dignity and the interests of the South African people.

"Although there may have been differences and disagreements, there has also been kindness, empathy and compassion. There has been courage and solidarity. A very different South Africa and world awaits us. The greatest test will be our willingness to embrace change. Let us rise to meet this challenge." - Ramaphosa

Download the President's address [here](#).

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B4SA UPDATE: COMMENTS ON THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS OF 13 MAY 2020

Business for South Africa welcomes the announcement last night by President Ramaphosa of the intention to ease the lockdown and reopen the economy. They continue to engage government to reiterate their call for the swift easing of economic restrictions accompanied by stringent health and hygiene measures in the workplace, public transport, public services and public spaces, and at all times - where practical - to limit the movement of people.

B4SA strongly supports the risk-adjusted and evidence-based policymaking which are informed by ever-improving models created by health and economic experts. As Business for South Africa, they have been sharing their detailed risk, economic and health modelling with government and will continue to work with the state to improve the collective response.

B4SA recognises that the initial lock-down was successful in "flattening the curve", slowing the rate of infection, and giving our public and private healthcare system a chance to rapidly increase the capacity to deal with COVID-19.

Download the B4SA update [here](#).

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Q&A ON THE LOAN GUARANTEE SCHEME



As a result of the novel coronavirus and the steps taken to curb its spread, many businesses face a significant loss of income. In this context, the government is partnering with commercial banks to provide financial support to small and medium-sized firms to enable them to meet their operational needs over the next few months.

On 4 May 2020, the National Treasury, South African Reserve Bank and Banking Association South Africa agreed on the detailed design, legal agreements and administrative processes to implement the loan guarantee scheme announced by President Ramaphosa on 20 April 2020. Participating banks are expected to start receiving and processing COVID-19 loan applications from Monday 11 May 2020.

- What is the loan guarantee scheme?
- Which businesses qualify?
- What are the conditions of the loan?
- What happens if a business that has taken a loan closes down?

Download the Q&A for the answer to these and other questions [here](#).

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MAJOR SUPPLIER OF FACE MASKS PROSECUTED FOR EXORBITANT PRICE INCREASES

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Sicuro Safty and Hennox supplies have been charged with the contravention of section 8(1)(a) of the Competition Act, read with Regulation 4 of the Consumer Protection Regulations.

This follows the Commission's investigation which found that the two firms prices for the Filtering Face Piece 1 mask increased astronomically by more than 969.07% and 956%, as charged by Sicuro and Hennox, respectively. The firms have not furnished the Commission with any reasonable explanation for such excessive price increases.

The two cases follow the Commission's earlier prosecution in respect of excess prices charged for face mask against Babelegi Workwear and Dischem. In Babelegi a price increase of 1241% was levied, while Dis-Chem the price increase for face masks was as much as 317%.

The Commission contends that Sicuro's and Hennox's pricing was a direct reaction to the COVID-19 pandemic and its unprecedented impact on the world in general and South Africa in particular.

In order to address this concern, the Commission has asked the Tribunal to issues an interdict prohibiting the firms from continuing with any excessive pricing conduct, together with such pricing order as may be necessary to remedy this conduct.

The commission has also asked the Tribunal to impose a maximum penalty.

Download the notice [here](#).

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COVID-19 WORKPLACE RESPONSE TRAINING:

Occupational Safety & Health COVID-19 Training

AUDA-NEPAD in partnership with the African Union, Department of Health South Africa, The International Labour Organisation (ILO) and partners will be hosting a series of COVID-19 Workplace Response Training on Occupational Safety and Health for all sectors.



Training 1: 18 May
10h30 -12h30
(GMT+2)

Setting up coordination team and workstreams



Training 2: 20 May
10h30 -12h30
(GMT+2)

Epidemiology and management of COVID-19 in the workplace



Training 3: 22 May
13h30 -15h00
(GMT+2)

Return to work post COVID-19 illness & lock-down



Training 4: 25 May
10h30 -12h30
(GMT+2)

Implications of COVID-19 in the workplace: OSH Context

Download the Training Flyer with registration links [here](#).

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CIPC & NCR'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO GOVERNMENT'S COVID-19 RESPONSE

The Portfolio Committee on Trade and Industry was briefed by the Companies and Intellectual Property Commission (CIPC) and the National Credit Regulator (NCR) on their contributions to the government's response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

CIPC highlighted the workings of the BizPortal system which is an integral part of its response to the COVID-19 pandemic. During level 5 lockdown, approximately 270 000 companies applied for essential service certificates. Upon the extension of lockdown, CIPC issued all applied companies new certificates with additional wording, to meet the additional requirements of the South African Police Service. CIPC thereafter was involved in additional essential service categories coming online during the Lockdown being graded to level 4 on 1 May 2020. To date, approximately 360 000 companies had applied and received their essential service certificates.

NCR, in presentation, outlined its initiatives in response to Covid-19, the advice provided to its stakeholders, and post-lockdown compliance monitoring. The NCR had given credit providers, debt counsellors and credit bureaus until after the lockdown to provide statutory reports and also proposed the waiver or extension of NCR registration fees. The advice was being afforded to credit providers, National Treasury, the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition, the South African Reserve Bank and the South African Future Trust regarding relief for consumers and small businesses. In particular, interest-free loans from the South African Future Trust would go directly to employees of small businesses and would

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Download the minutes [here](#).

Download the CIPC presentation [here](#) and the NRC presentation [here](#).

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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.

What must I do to prepare my workplace and have staff return to work?

There are now Occupational Health & Safety Measures that all businesses, apart from health facilities and practices, must adhere to. This applies to those who have been supplying essential goods this far, as well as those that may partially re-open from level 4 and down.

Download the directive [here](#)

You can also find useful tools on the [Return2Work website](#).

Where can I get a list of goods that are banned from export by the government?

The restrictions on Personal Protective Equipment are set out in the published [Export Regulations](#).

The regulation provides that items listed in schedules 1,2,3 and 4 shall not be exported from the Republic of South Africa except by virtue of an export permit issued in terms of Section 6 of the said International Trade Administration Act,2002.

IMPORTANT SAHPRA MEDICAL DEVICE NOTICES

It is imperative to first read the notices as the regulatory is currently being inundated with calls and queries which are covered in these notices.

- [Specification criteria for COVID-19 serological test kits](#)
- [Joint Communication-Regulatory Status of Equipment Used to Help Prevent COVID-19](#)
- [NRCS media Release – Standards for Masks and Disinfectants](#)
- [Regulatory Requirements for the manufacture, distribution or wholesale of Serological COVID-19 Rapid Test Kits](#)
- [SAHPRA clarifies the issue of COVID-19 Rapid Test Kits](#)
- [Medical devices including IVDS requirement for supply in light of COVID-19 pandemic](#)

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SAHPRA MEDICAL DEVICE CONTACTS

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

- 084 220 8037
- 072 993 2273
- 078 281 6334

For queries on COVID-19 please email mdcovid.@sahpra.org.za and all other regular medical device queries can be sent to MDnotifications@sahpra.org.za

For general licensing queries: June Searela june.searela@sahpra.org.za / 072 828 2416

For COVID-19 related applications: Matlapeng Shabalala Matlapeng.Shabalala@sahpra.org.za / 071 302 0409 or

Khanyisile Nkuku Khanyisile.Nkuku@sahpra.org.za / 081 854 7109

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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 SAMED office, 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.

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 be reset.

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

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THE SOLIDARITY FUND

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

AHF-WHO COVID-19 DIALOGUE

WHO AFRICA & AFRICA HEALTHCARE FEDERATION

A PUBLIC-PRIVATE DIALOGUE: HOW CAN WE WORK TOGETHER TO COMBAT COVID-19 IN AFRICA

SATURDAY, MAY 16, 2020

4.00PM - 5.30PM (EAT)

REGISTRATION LINK: [HTTPS://BIT.LY/35ALPR9](https://bit.ly/35ALPR9)

SPEAKERS:

Dr. Matshidiso Moeti, WHO Regional Director for Africa

Mr. David Clarke, WHO Leader UHC and Health Systems Law

Dr. Amit N. Thakker, President Africa Healthcare Federation

 www.africahf.com

 @AfricaHealthFed

 Africa Healthcare Federation

Registration Link: <https://bit.ly/35Alpr9>



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Join SGS for a FREE webinar that will provide an overview of the changes to ISO 14971:2019 and will help you to understand the relationship between risk management, regulatory requirements, and the quality management system.

Date and time: 19 May, 15:00

To register, [click here](#).

The keynote speaker, Professor Salim Abdool Karim will provide an overview of the current COVID-19 situation in South Africa, including updates and suggestions for tackling the pandemic.

Date & Time: 20 May 2020, 11:30 - 14:00

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

To register, [click here](#).

EKA SNAP SESSIONS: COVID-19 & MEDICAL SCHEMES and COVID-19 & PRIVACY

Due to the success of the session on TERS/UIF, Elsabe Klinck and Associates has scheduled two more evening snap sessions.

- **COVID-19 & medical schemes** - what must be funded, how, scheme conditions on patient risk (e.g. not funding if high risk, requirements to telehealth, etc.) **20 May** 18:00; and
- **COVID-19 & privacy** is a major issue due to the issues with lists that must be kept as part of the Annexure E plan, screening systems, mandatory reporting of PUI & contacts, etc. **28 May**

Download the form [here](#).

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COVID-19 DEVELOPMENTS

TRACKING THE EPIDEMIC

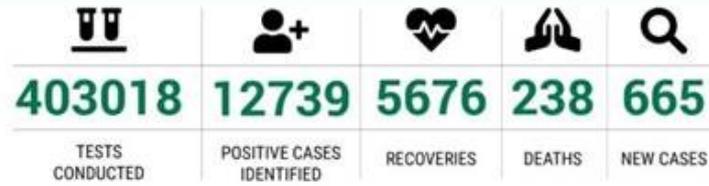
A total of 403 018 tests have been conducted in South Africa, 16 666 in the last 24-hour cycle – the **highest daily testing** tally to date. Public and private sector testing totals are about equal.

The rise in **new confirmed cases** is pretty much **consistent** with the pattern over the past two weeks. However, the **19 additional deaths** reported were unusually high.

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Learn more to Be READY for #COVID19:
www.sacoronavirus.co.za

NICD Hotline: 0800 029 999
WhatsApp 'Hi' to 0650 123 456



LOCKDOWN DEVELOPMENTS

In an interview with eNCA on 14 May, **Health Minister Zweli Mkhize** said that government would be involving NGOs, faith-based organisations and community policing forums more actively in securing lockdown compliance at district level. He **explained how district-based lockdown provisions would be administered**. The level of a district would be based on the average number of *active cases* per 100 000 population and classification would be reviewed every two weeks by the NCCC.

Dr Mkhize further indicated that testing and tracing in identified hotspots would be stepped up, with dedicated multidisciplinary public health teams – including an epidemiologist – assigned to specific areas. These rapid response teams should be agile and able to respond promptly to quell cluster outbreaks.

For more on the Health Minister's thinking see his [guest column for News24](#)

President Cyril Ramaphosa, on a visit to the Eastern Cape, emphasised that government was **serious about moving to Level 3** Lockdown. "We are not stuck on Level 4 - I need to make that very clear. We are going to migrate to Level 3 so that we can loosen up a number of restrictions so that the economy can start operating once again. We have said from the onset that our purpose is to save lives and at the same time to save livelihoods."

Gauteng Premier David Makhura released a **detailed picture of the pandemic in Gauteng** during a virtual briefing yesterday. He emphasised that, when it came to opening up the Gauteng economy, much depended on how the province complied with Level 4. Failure to comply could lead to the province's health services being overwhelmed while good compliance could lead to rapid progress to Level 3.

He provided details of how the virus has affected various districts (see table below) and identified the areas that appeared to be emerging hotspots, warning: "Even if you have 40 cases in the township, it is a lot as transmission can happen very quickly if there are no interventions.

"Case numbers are still low, but we are concerned about vulnerable areas, like the townships and informal settlements. These numbers can multiply in the shortest space of time if there is no social distancing

"There are now clear signs of emerging hotspots in the townships: Soweto, Orange Farm, Alex, Kathorus

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BREAKDOWN PER SUB-DISTRICT:

District	Total District	Sub-District	Total Sub-District
City of Johannesburg	1124	City of Johannesburg A: Diepsloot, Kya Sands, Dainfern, Midrand, Lanseria, Fourways, Ivory Park	163
		City of Johannesburg B: Randburg, Rosebank, Emmarentia, Greenside, Melville, Mayfair, Northcliff, Parktown, Parktown North	172
		City of Johannesburg C: Roodepoort, Constantia Kloof, Northgate, Florida, Bram Fishersville	87
		City of Johannesburg D: Doomkop, Soweto, Dobsonville, Protea Glen	98
		City of Johannesburg E: Alexandra, Wynberg, Sandton, Orange Grove, Houghton	287
		City of Johannesburg F: Inner City, Johannesburg South	133
		City of Johannesburg G:	75

District	Total District	Sub-District	Total Sub-District
		Orange Farm, Weilers Farm, Ennerdale, Lenasia, Eldorado Park, Protea South	
		Unallocated	109
City of Tshwane	304	City of Tshwane 1: Ga-Rankuwa, Mabopane, Winterveldt, Soshanguve, Rosslyn, Karenpark, Wonderboom, Akasia, Nina Park, Orchards, Amandasig, Thereza Park, Pretoria North	39
		City of Tshwane 2: Hammanskraal, Temba, Suurman, Diloye, Stinkwater, Ramotse, New Eesterus, Kameeldrif, Pyramid/Rooiwal, Doornpoort, Kekana Gardens, KekansStad, Marokolong, Randstown, Kanana	10
		City of Tshwane 3: Atteridgeville, Laudium, Pretoria CBD, Hercules, Danville, Saulsville, Lotus, Pretoria West	103
		City of Tshwane 4: Lyttelton, Eldoraigne, Waterkloof, Olievenhoutbosch, Rooihuiskraal, Lyttelton, Silverton, Centurion, Brooklyn, Hatfield	66
		City of Tshwane 5: East Lynne, Rayton, Cullinan, Dewagendrift, Refilwe, Silverton, Onverwacht	4
		City of Tshwane 6: Eesterus, Lethabong, Mamelodi, Silverlakes, Garsfontein, Lynnwood, Queenswood, Wilgers, Watloo, Equestria, Mookikloof, Brummeria	63

HEALTH DEVELOPMENTS

Dr Sandile Buthelezi, CEO of the South African AIDS Council, has been appointed to **DG of Health**, replacing Precious Matsoso. According to Sanac's website, he has more than 15 years of experience in health governance, policy and programme management. After practising as a clinician and medical superintendent in hospitals in KwaZulu-Natal and the Free State, he served for 10 years as KwaZulu-Natal's provincial head of strategic health programmes, which encompassed HIV, TB, maternal child and women's health, nutrition and communicable diseases.

Before joining Sanac, Buthelezi was South Africa's country director for ICAP at Columbia University, which is a division of the New York-based Mailman School of Public Health.

The publication, Spotlight, has investigated the **impact of Covid-19** on the **provision of health services** for non-related conditions. Its sources were mainly Cape Town-based and they indicated that the backlog for elective surgery was building, while cancer surgery and other oncology services were generally available. The article quoted a source from the National Health Laboratory Service on a decline in the numbers of HIV and TB tests, including viral load tests for those on ARV treatment. Some clinicians expressed the view that the diagnosis of new cases of various diseases was suffering.

The **Eastern Cape government** has announced that **upgrades** to a total value of R50m will be undertaken at **28 hospitals** in the province to improve their capacity to deal with the Covid-19 epidemic.

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homes in the Western Cape. This **highlights the vulnerability** of our care homes – just like others throughout the world – to the **rapid spread of infection**. He indicated that measures had been taken to reduce the risk, but homes were not sealed off from the world: they depend on staff from the community who perform many essential tasks for residents at close physical proximity. This is unavoidable. He related that one home, Highland House, had tested 460 staff members and residents and found 26 staff and 12 residents were positive. This testing was done privately. Most care homes do not have access to testing.

Higher education

Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology Blade Nzimande briefed parliament yesterday on plans for the “risk-based” return to teaching and learning in the higher education and training sector. He indicated that the **current academic year would be saved** by extending activities into 2021, as late as April where circumstances demanded this. He said:

- Doctors in the final year of study resumed clinical training on 11 May.
- All universities and TVET colleges were expected to institute various forms of remote learning from 1 June.
- Once the country moved to lockdown Levels 3 and 2, return to campuses would be phased in. There would be national criteria for this so that institutions proceeded in an orderly manner.
- TVET colleges were expected to begin campus activities in June or July. Social distancing would apply and all students and staff would be screened daily.
- Community learning centres for adult education were expected to open in June and each class would be split into two to ensure social distancing.

MEDIA

eTV has closed its Cape Town offices and studios for deep cleaning and 70 staff members are in isolation following the death of cameraman Lungile Tom due to the coronavirus. This will affect their newsgathering capacity in the Western Cape.

ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENTS

New regulations published yesterday to permit the online sale of all commodities except alcoholic beverages and tobacco products. This is subject to compliance with provisions on safe packaging and delivery of parcels.

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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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