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COVID-19 news from SAMED, Government and Abroad.

## AFRICAN MEDICAL SUPPLIES PLATFORM

The AMSP platform is open to original manufacturers, WHO consortium strategic procurement partners and certified distributors appointed by our Partnering Governments able to supply PPE, Clinical management, Diagnostics and other related medical equipment, pharmaceuticals & vaccines that are relevant to the COVID-19 pandemic.

To list diagnostics including test kits, the product has to have international certifications from stringent regulation authorities such as WHO, FDA emergency authorization, NPMA or AMA. For clinical management and other medical equipment, the CE or ISO mark of quality is acceptable. If in any doubt if your product has the correct certifications kindly send an email to [seller@amsp.africa](mailto:seller@amsp.africa) or share via the Supplier intake form.

**Download the African Medical Supplies Platform FAQ [here](#).**

**Download the AU onboarding template [here](#).**

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## CORRUPTION WATCH: THE CRITICAL STATE OF THE HEALTH SECTOR IN SA

Corruption Watch has published a report on the state of the health sector in South Africa. They propose that one may think the situation is exaggerated, that the gravity and seriousness of our moral, legal, political and social problem is overstated, but corruption is a disease that seeps through every major artery of our society.

Almost 700 whistle-blower accounts received since their launch in early 2012 until the end of 2019. In those eight years, ordinary people from all over the country approached Corruption Watch to raise deep concerns about a number of issues relating to their use of hospitals and clinics. The cases are troubling considering that the most vulnerable – the elderly, women and children – are the ones feeling the brunt of a shortage of medication, malfunctioning equipment, or the pressure to exchange undisclosed amounts of cash for goods or services.

This report is a voice for these reporters and Corruption Watch hope that the snapshot presented herein will lead to a change for the over 80% of people relying on some 4 300 public health facilities nationwide.

**Download the report [here](#).**

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BUSINESS FOR SA | COVID-19

## WELCOME EXTENSION OF THE TERS BENEFIT TO MID-AUGUST

Business for South Africa (B4SA) welcomes the extension of the Temporary Employer/Employee Relief Scheme (TERS) benefit beyond its original 3-month term by an additional month-and-a-half until mid-August.

The announcement of this yesterday by Deputy Minister of Employment and Labour, Ms Boitumelo Moloi, will come as a relief to the many employers and employees whose businesses are either unable to operate at all or who are having to operate on only a partial basis. B4SA is hopeful that the benefit will

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B4SA would like to applaud the positive and co-operative nature of the engagements on this issue at Nedlac over the past couple of weeks by all the social partners – government, organised labour and community.

It is hoped that the Unemployment Insurance Fund will be able to open applications for the July benefit at the earliest opportunity.

B4SA's task team, together with representatives of organised labour, continues to engage with the UIF on a daily basis, in order to unblock the still very significant backlog in paying out claims for April, May and June.

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## COVID-19 DEVELOPMENTS

### TRACKING THE PANDEMIC

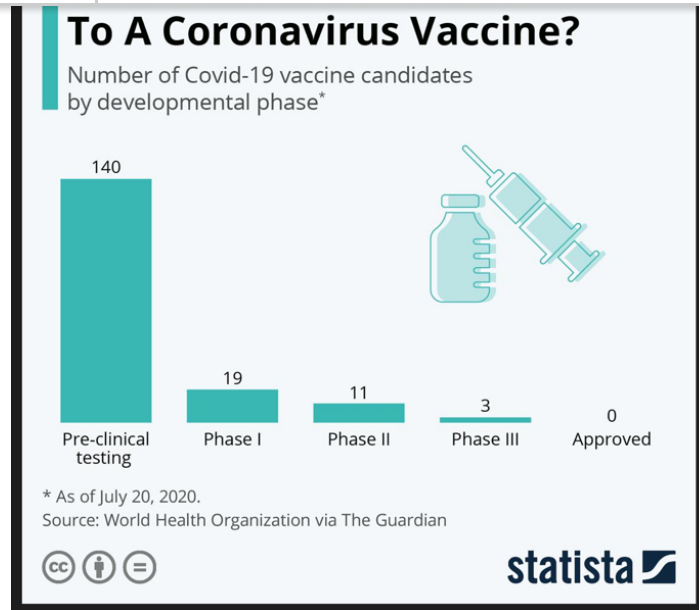
South Africa is nearing 400 000 infections, and globally about 15 000 000 cases of COVID-19 have been reported.



Gauteng	Western Cape	KwaZulu Natal	Free State	Eastern Cape	Limpopo	Mpumalanga	North West	Northern Cape
139,435	86,329	47,685	11,352	66,759	5,355	7,664	14,634	2,539
Daily Increase								
2,556	557	2,071	625	1,443	199	240	297	188

The BBC reports on a presentation by Wellcome Trust director Prof Sir Jeremy Farrar to the House of Commons' Health Committee that [humanity would be living with the virus for "decades"](#) and even a vaccine is unlikely to eliminate it for good. He said it was important to further build up testing capacity as well as investing in treatments and vaccines. At the same briefing, Prof Sir John Bell, of the University of Oxford, said he thought it was unlikely that COVID-19 would ever be eliminated despite the positive news announced on Monday that trials by his university had triggered an immune response - an important step in developing a vaccine. "The reality is that this pathogen is here forever, it isn't going anywhere," he told MPs. "Look at how much trouble they've had in eliminating, for example, polio, that eradication programme has been going on for 15 years and they're still not there. So this is going to come and go, and we're going to get winters where we get a lot of this virus back in action."

### CLINICAL, MEDICAL, SCIENTIFIC



The [SA medical technology industry has warned the public about the use of COVID-19 “self-tests” that have entered the market](#). “The SA Medical Technology Industry Association (SAMED) and the Southern African Laboratory Diagnostics Association (SALDA) want to contribute to informed discourse relating to the use of medical technologies, including tests for COVID-19,” said the statement. SAMED and SALDA warn that most of these “self-test” products would not have been checked or registered by the SAHPRA (South African Health Products Regulatory Authority). Emphasising this message, Sarah Cohen, SALDA’s Executive Officer says: “All testing for COVID-19 should be done by healthcare professionals in an accredited laboratory or approved facility, with all the relevant quality control measures in place.”

A Western Cape initiative to deploy mobile testing booths at 17 clinics in Cape Town also addresses the safety of those performing the tests and people who come to test. As reported by news24, City of Cape Town mayoral committee member for community services and health, Zahid Badroodien said the booths will aid efforts to increase the number of tests of vulnerable individuals at risk of more severe illness. He described the booths as an innovative cost-effective solution. The [tester uses special external glove extensions to reach out and perform nasopharyngeal swabs](#) without any major difficulties, he explained. The gloves were cleaned and disinfected before the next person was tested. “Our new testing booths will allow us to conduct tests with an added layer of safety for both the person conducting the test and the person being tested. Importantly, it will allow us to save valuable personal protection equipment (PPE), as there is a worldwide shortage at present. The testing booths are designed for a single operator who will not need to don PPE whilst testing, although a surgical mask is still recommended.” (see photo below illustrating the approach)



### ECONOMICS, POLITICS, EDUCATION, ENVIRONMENT, SOCIAL

The Daily Maverick reports that yesterday (21 July), the KwaZulu-Natal provincial government held a special media briefing on Tuesday acknowledging widespread [collusion within its Department of Social Development \(DSD\) and blatant misuse of COVID-19 emergency procurement provisions](#). Evidence revealed a pattern of tenders dished out to the hand-picked cronies of department officials, and of service providers being paid upfront without purchase orders being issued.

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## Webinar invitation: Mental Health Effects of Covid-19 in the Workplace *Mental Health and the “New Work Normal”*

Please join members of our Employment Team and our guest speaker, Irshaad Bramdev (a psychology honours graduate and Internal Mobility Consultant with a keen interest and experience in mental health awareness in businesses), as we discuss mental health and the “new work normal” as a result of Covid-19.

**Date**

Monday, 27 July 2020

**Time**

09h00 – 10h00

**Platform**

Microsoft Teams (link provided)

*Topics to be addressed set out below.*

**Moderator and Speakers**

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**Irshaad Bramdev (Guest Speaker)**  
Internal Mobility Consultant, Resource Solutions  
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### Topics to be addressed

**Financial instability and uncertainty**

- Salary reductions, restructuring and retrenchments, reduced hours of work

**Ensuring high performing teams in the new virtual world of work**

- Discussing emotional and mental strain of the pandemic
- Performance monitoring and evaluation

**Cabin fever – Managing employer flexibility and reasonable accommodation**

- Employee support programs and assistance
- Working from home
- 14-day isolation period and quarantine, entitlement to sick leave and other illness benefits
- Monitoring and addressing abuse by employees

**Economic impact**

- Absence of the economically active population due to hospitalisation, isolation and quarantine
- Knock-on effect on business continuity and delivery
- The closure of main industries globally and locally
- How line managers and HR are to manage these issues to ensure that the business remains stable through these times

Please complete the attached form if you would like the panel to address a question on the above topics.



### [Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)

For any queries, please contact Amanda Enne: [amanda.enne@lawtonsafrica.com](mailto:amanda.enne@lawtonsafrica.com)

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## COVID-19 EVENTS

### UPDATED FORECAST: IMPACT OF COVID-19 IN AFRICA

The Hanns Seidel Foundation, the Institute for Security Studies, the Gordon Institute of Business Science, the Frederick S Pardee Centre for International Futures and Humanity United hereby cordially invite you to participate in a joint seminar on **'Updated forecasts: impact of COVID-19 in Africa'**. The speakers will introduce the final version of their much awaited new study, with updated forecasts just generated based on the latest projections released by the IMF.

**Date:** 23 July 2020

**Time:** 15:00 to 16:00 GMT+2

**Venue:** Online via Zoom, [registration](#) required

Enquiries can be sent to Zachel van Aswegen: [zvanaswegen@issafrika.org](mailto:zvanaswegen@issafrika.org)

Download the invitation [here](#).

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### IHRM: Webinar Update on the Impact of COVID-19

IHRM invites you to join them for a webinar on 31 July at 09h00 when Christoff Raath, Joint CEO of

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For more details or to register [click here](#).

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SAMED is the voice of the South African medical technology industry. The not-for-gain-association 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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