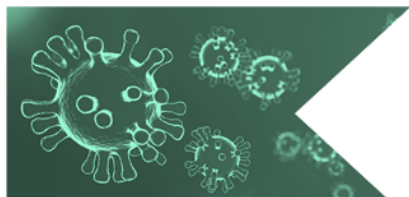


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SAMED
south african medical technology industry association

COVID-19 NEWS

COVID-19 news from SAMED, Government and Abroad.

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](#).

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: Can I have duties on COVID-19 products waived? If so, where do I apply?

ANSWER: Duties have been waived in favour of reducing the cost associated with importing medical technology critical to the prevention, testing and management of COVID-19 in South Africa. The Department of Trade, Industry and Competition has made a provision of rebate item 412.11 for goods imported for the relief of distress. Should your import item be listed as [a remedy for critical medical supplies for COVID-19](#), you can download a [rebate application form](#) from the [ITAC website](#) for a duties rebate.

This Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) acts as a guideline for Business in importing critical supplies into South Africa under Rebate Item 412.11. Importantly, rebate item 412.11' means the full rebate of custom duties and VAT exemption on the critical supplies during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Download the SOP for Business Importing Critical Supplies [here](#).

Kindly note that a permit application for critical medical supplies as listed on ITAC's website must be submitted electronically to the following officials:

For goods classifiable under Chapter 1 to 68:

- Mr Christopher Sako at csako@itac.org.za; and
- Ms Khosi Mzinjana at kmzinjana@itac.org.za;

For goods classifiable under Chapter 69 to 96:

- Ms Lufuno Maliaga at lmaliaga@itac.org.za

It should also be noted that the relevant application form requires among others, specific volumes and values, which should be informed by i.e. offtake orders or substantiated methodology that supports the volume applied for as well corresponding value. It would therefore not be a blanket permit for a prolonged period of time. Be sure to put shipping dates or urgency in the subject field to aid ITAC in prioritising their efforts. Should you require more clarity you are at liberty to contact the relevant officials mentioned above.

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

Amended Department of Labour COVID-19 TERS Directive

On 26 March 2020, The Minister of Employment and Labour issued out a [directive](#) that determined that it is necessary to implement steps through the Covid19 Temporary Employee / Employer Relief Scheme to prevent an escalation of the COVID -19 infections funded through the National Disaster Benefit. The purpose of this Directive is to make provision for the:

1. Payment of benefits to the Contributors who have lost income due to the COVID -19 pandemic
2. Minimise economic impact of loss of employment because of the pandemic
3. Avoid contact and contain the spread of COVID -19 during the process of application for benefit
4. Establish the Temporary Employee /Employer Relief Scheme and set out the application process for benefits of the COVID -19 pandemic.

On 8 April 2020, The Minister of Employment and Labour issued out an amendment of the above-mentioned directive.

Download the [Amended COVID-19 Temporary Employee/Employer Relief Scheme directive](#).

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Final clarity: UIF claims and remuneration during Lockdown

Following the issuing of an amendment to the TERS fund, the major unanswered question regarding the amount an employer can pay an

an employee who will also receive the UIF benefit has been clarified.

Some Practical recommendations:

- It is noted that the term “salary” and “remuneration” are used interchangeably in the Gazette. It is recommended that the remuneration recorded in monthly returns as identified in your payroll system be used. The basic remuneration, excluding commission, allowances and the like.
- Should an employer be in a position to remunerate an employee for a period (typically a month) but would also like to receive the COVID-19 benefit from UIF, the employer should consider the scale of benefits from 60% of the remuneration for employees who earn in excess R 3 500.00 to 38% for employees who earn R 17 712.00 (i.e. R 6 730.56).
- If an employee's remuneration is less than R 3 500.00, the UIF payment will be R 3 500.00.
- For employees earning equal to or in excess of R 17 712.00 the maximum amount that may be claimed will be R 6 730.56.
- We again reiterate that the UIF senior officials have advised us verbally that employers should continue to remunerate employees if they are in a position to do so. They advise that such advance payments may be set off against the payment received from the UIF.
- The UIF has advised that due to the numerous applications for TERS it may take some time for employers to receive this relief.

Read the full Process Consulting breakdown [here](#).

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facilities with specific reference to COVID-19. It should be read in conjunction with the National Infection Prevention and Control Strategic Framework and the Practical Manual for the Implementation thereof. These guidelines are likely to change as knowledge regarding strategies to address COVID-19 develop globally and in South Africa.

Download the guidelines [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.

The graphic is a white rounded rectangle with a blue border. At the top center is the SAHPRA logo, which consists of the word 'SAHPRA' in large blue letters, with 'South African Health Products Regulatory Authority' in smaller blue text below it. Below the logo, the text 'SAHPRA COVID-19 Medical Device Hotline' is written in blue. This is followed by the text '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.' in black. Below this, three phone numbers are listed in blue: '084 220 8037', '072 993 2273', and '078 281 6334'. Then, the text 'Hours of Operation: (Excluding weekends and public holidays)' is written in black, followed by the hours '08:00 – 16:00' in blue. At the bottom center is a blue circular icon containing a white headset symbol.

Download this notice, [here](#).

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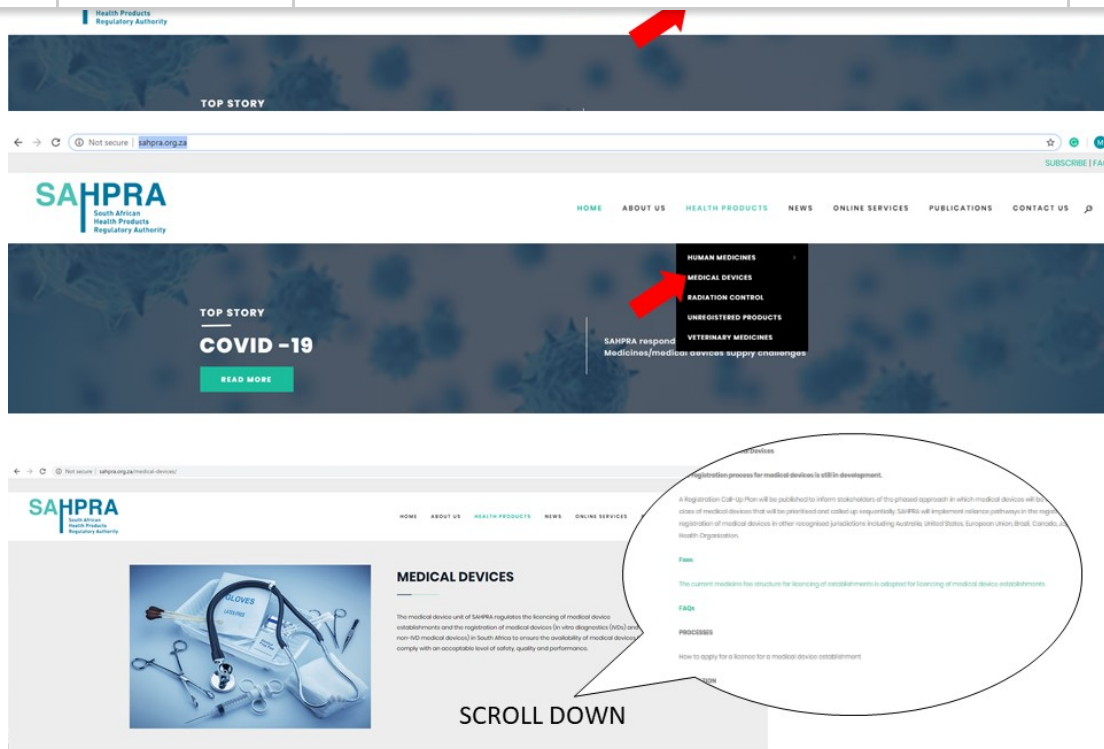
Make use of the SAHPRA web resources

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.

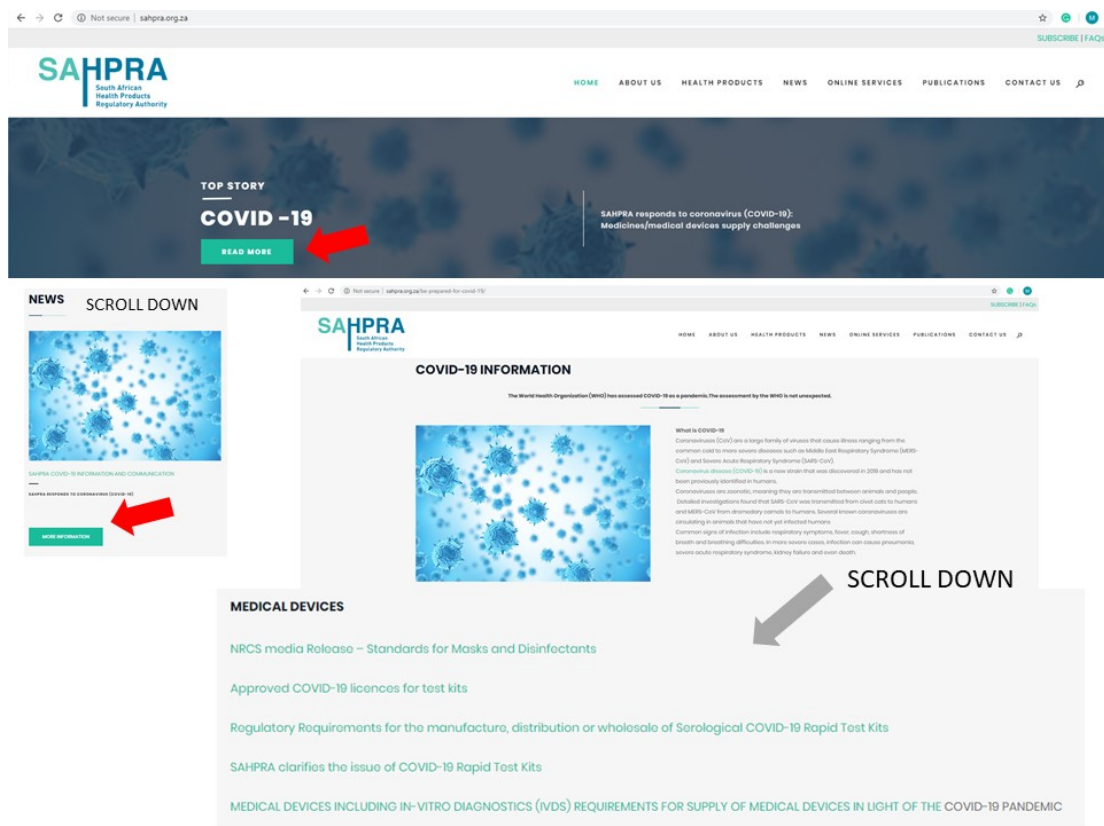
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The second is an area at the end of the [COVID-19 page](#) with information and notices specific to the COVID-19 pandemic and medical device suppliers. To find this page, go to the www.sahpra.org.za website, click on either the homepage COVID banner 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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Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the import of containers at South African

minimum time delay. This SOP is designed to bring about certainty amongst importers by ensuring that all ocean carriers follow the same procedures laid down by the Government when processing import containers. It should be noted that these procedures are intended to be implemented only for the duration of the current COVID-19 State of Disaster.

The Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) outlines a solution where importers and their agents are assured of sufficient certainty, uniformity and predictability in their dealings with carriers, whilst simultaneously protecting the legitimate interests of carriers. Industry duly accepts and highlights the fact that, once containers leave the terminals through merchant haulage, the risk of any non-compliance with regulations transfers to the importer and his agent and transporter. It is further also the intention of this document to support SARS's mandate specifically in terms of preventing illicit trade, protecting the fiscus through continued revenue collection, and ensuring national security. [Read more](#)

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IDC COVID-19 Essential Supplies Intervention

The IDC COVID-19 Essential Supplies Intervention is designed to provide funding to companies that have the capacity to acquire and/or manufacture products needed to treat, curtail and combat the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. The following financial instruments are available:

- Short-term loan for once-off contract or import funding
- Revolving credit facility
- Guarantees to banks for banking facilities, imports and order requirements

Read more about these and other stories in the IDC newsletter, [available here](#).

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Implementation of the Preparedness and Upscaling Plan

The National Health Laboratory Service (NHLS) is a public health laboratory service with laboratories across South Africa. The NHLS is the largest public health laboratory service with more than 233 laboratories across the nine provinces. When the volume of reference testing started growing and the first positive case was detected, the NHLS started testing in the NHLS laboratories. The NHLS had capacitated itself through the procurement of state of the art equipment in Virology laboratories in the country.

The NHLS has done a review of the capacity it will have to implement the rollout of the COVID-19 testing programme. Both currently and in the future, the NHLS will have sufficient capacity to successfully implement the programme. The NHLS has requested that the provinces scale up its screening and referrals for testing. The NHLS management team had to work under extremely difficult conditions, in the face of global shortages and competition for equipment, to rapidly provide a service to manage the campaign. [Read more](#)

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SA's COVID-19 epidemic: Trends & Next steps

The current stages of SA's COVID-19 response are as follows:

[Stage 1: Preparation](#)

[Stage 2: Primary prevention](#)

[Stage 3: Lockdown](#)

[Stage 4: Surveillance & active case-finding](#)

Community transmission levels will guide the next steps & the lockdown. By 18 April the government will know if community transmission interpretation is accurate. It is expected for large daily variations & some increases in positive tests due to active case-finding (passive vs active cases). An abrupt return may increase spread and so there will need to be a plan for the systematic easing of the lockdown over several days.

Next stages of South Africa's response are as follows:

[Stage 5: Hotspots](#)

[Stage 6: Medical Care \(for the peak\)](#)

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Get an overview of the stages [here](#).

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Pricing in a crisis: Competition law compliance during COVID-19

Bowmans held a webinar on a number of issues relating to competition law compliance in South Africa during the COVID-19 crisis.

A recording is available on their website. Please click [here](#) to access it.

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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

COVID-19 policy for your workplace

EECMS is hosting a webinar on COVID-19 policy for your workplace at no cost at 10:00 on Thursday 16 April 2020. Please note that only the first 300 delegates will be able to attend. The webinar will cover:

EMPLOYMENT EQUITY:

- Employment Equity (training on the EE Act, 45 minutes)

CORONA VIRUS AND THE IMPACT ON YOUR BUSINESS:

- Repercussions of allegations about a person's COVID-19 status;
- Employers and Trade Unions working together to give employees some respite during the National lockdown;
- Train your staff immediately of the COVID19;
- Train your staff of your Clients' new policies in order to accommodate COVID19;
- Advise your staff of cleaning material to clean their hands;
- Stop using the old system where we exchange pens', books etc;
- Supply or advise staff where to get an **alcohol-based** hand, device, board, table, computer, computer keyboards etc.
- Conduct inductions and allow employees' to sign for the induction as per COVID19 precautionary measures

Click on the link should you like to join this meeting: <https://eecms.zoom.us/j/895378993>

Remember to click on the link and ONLY join the meeting 15 MINUTES before the meeting starts, and not today. Also, remember to diarise this event in your Outlook and/or other online diaries.

For more information contact Christiaan Pieter du Toit cp@eecms.co.za

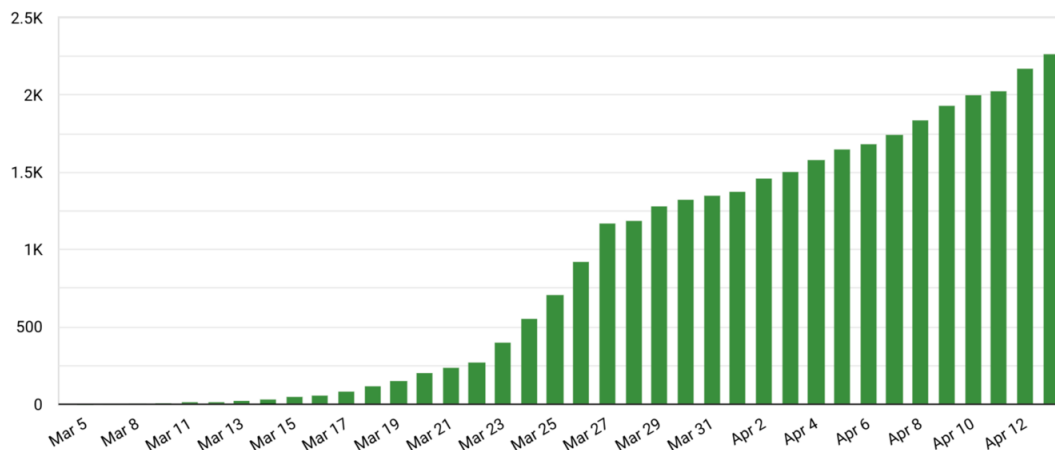
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COVID-19 DEVELOPMENTS

TRACKING THE PANDEMIC

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Globally, there are 1.9 million infections and over 119 000 deaths.



SA's unique Covid-19 trajectory, and how the government is attacking the outbreak

[Presenting a detailed analysis](#) of the South African coronavirus outbreak and expected phases of the pandemic at a public engagement meeting with Health Minister Zweli Mkhize, Professor Salim Abdool Karim, chair of the ministerial advisory group on COVID-19 explained what might happen after the lockdown. The coming week is "critical" for the government's COVID-19 fight because the number of positive cases that are found during intensive testing will guide the government's next move. South Africa might still see an exponential increase in COVID-19 once the lockdown is lifted. Karim said the lockdown has been effective in delaying transmissions and easing the burden on our healthcare facilities. "What we would hope for is that the number of new cases will steadily decline, and it will disappear and that's the end of the story. I'm sorry to tell you, but that's very unlikely," Karim said.

RESPONSES TO THE PANDEMIC

Solidarity Fund
Unity in action

STAY HOME
SAVE SOUTH AFRICA
TOGETHER WE CAN DEFEAT THE CORONAVIRUS

PREVENTION EFFORTS
To date we have successfully procured

900 000 Pairs of Sterile Gloves	20 000 Face Shields	1,12 million N95 Masks
7,5 million surgical masks for front line health workers	200 Ventilators	

With your help and support in donating medical supplies we can intensify efforts to prevent the spread of this virus.

To pledge your support to the Solidarity Fund, please donate using the following banking details, visit www.solidarityfund.co.za for EFT & Credit Card options or call us on 0860 001 001

Bank: Standard Bank
Branch Name: Sandton City
Account Name: Solidarity Fund
Account No: 020070021
Account Type: Current account
Branch Code: 051001
SWIFT Code: SSBZAZAJJ

*For all EFT payments, please include your Identity/Company Registration/Trust number, as applicable, to facilitate your Section 18A tax certificate preparation.

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

2020 NDP

WHATSAPP SUPPORT 0600 123 456 EMERGENCY NUMBER 0800 029 999 sacoronavirus.co.za

Working with Business South Africa (BSA) and the **Solidarity Fund**, the **South African Medical Technology Industry Association (SAMED)** and its 200+ members are facilitating access to quality medical essentials and personal protective equipment (PPE) for healthcare workers as part of the prevention, testing and medical responses to the coronavirus.

First Rand's leadership is among those who are donating a third of their salaries to the [Solidarity Fund](#).

In his capacity as African Union chair, President Ramaphosa has appointed special envoys to mobilise international economic support for the continent's fight against COVID-19. Among those chosen is Nigeria's former Finance

Minister Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Lweala and South Africa's former Finance Minister Trevor Manuel.

Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates said that the world was entering into "uncharted territory" because it was not prepared for a pandemic like COVID-19, the disease caused by the novel coronavirus. Gates, who has been [warning about the risk of a pandemic disease](#) for years and who has [poured millions into fighting the new coronavirus outbreak](#), told [BBC Breakfast](#) on Sunday that the world should have invested more into mitigating a potential global health crisis.

South African government has recommended that everyone should wear a cloth face mask. Here are [instructions](#) on how to make one at home.

Motor company Ford has launched a [kids' activity book](#) and [unicef and WHO](#) have published a digital audio story book.

Like most other countries, the lockdown is putting many women, children and other vulnerable individuals at increased risk of gender-based violence. Listen to this podcast:

<https://www.news24.com/Video/SouthAfrica/News/podcast-one-more-thing-understanding-gbv-in-a-time-of-covid-19-as-lockdown-is-extended-20200410>

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

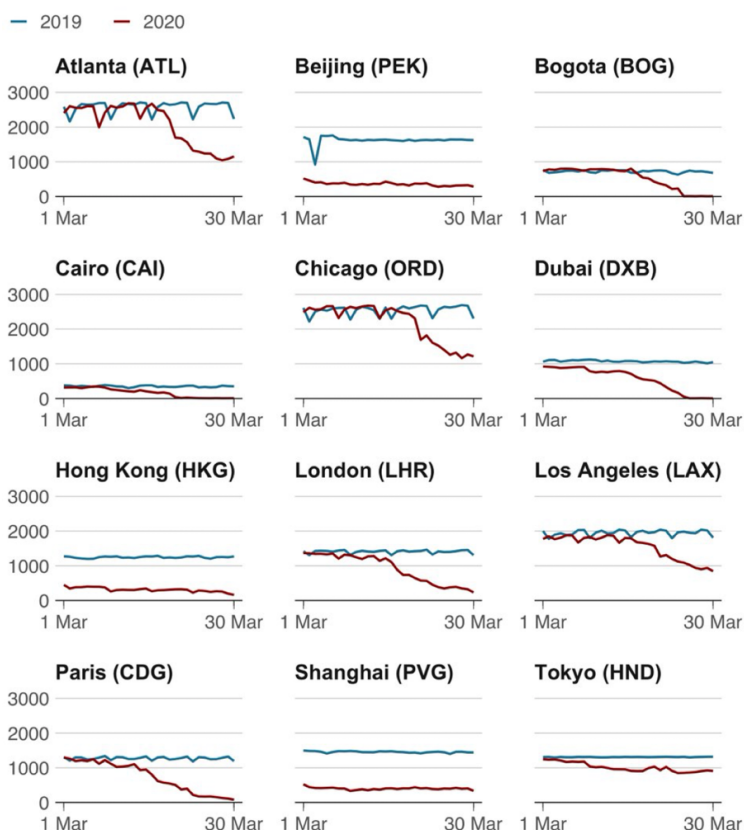
With many restaurants and other areas of the hospitality industry effectively shut for business, [food producers are warning](#) they actually have too much stock which will now go to waste. For example, with coffee shops closed completely in some countries, **oversupply of milk** is emerging as a real side-effect of the pandemic. Dairy Farmers of America, the country's biggest dairy co-operative, is estimating that farmers are having to dump 3.7 million gallons (14 million litres) of milk every single day because of disrupted supply routes. On the other hand, some parts of the food industry are benefiting from changing consumption habits – such as the US sales of orange juice, which had been on a gradual decline, are said to be up 38% on last year's figures.

The **Gauteng Liquor Forum** which is comprised about 20 000 township shebeens and taverns wrote a letter to Cyril Ramaphosa at the weekend detailing [why they should be permitted to sell alcohol](#) on a limited basis and to relax the total ban on alcohol sales or face court action. The President is given until today to respond.

The [air travel industry](#) records significant drop in flights worldwide, and looks at what air travel might look like after the coronavirus pandemic.

Graphic: data from Flightstats.com

Number of flights around the world decrease



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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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