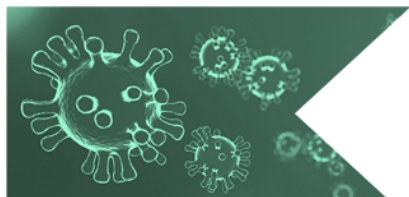


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**SAMED**  
south african medical technology industry association

## COVID-19 NEWS

COVID-19 news from SAMED, Government and Abroad.

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### 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](#).

### SAMED takes its message to the media

SAMED has been in the media over the last week. It has been important for us to communicate on the need for procuring quality, effective PPEs from legitimate sources (such as through the vetted process of the BSA portal which was developed in partnership with SAMED). The second is that there is a need to upscale and develop local supply chains to meet the current and future demand for PPEs. View some of the articles below:

- [PODCAST: SAMED call for an increase in #local production of PPE](#)
- [Online portal to boost access to essential medical COVID-19 supplies](#)
- [SABC News: SAMED calls for an increase in local PPE production](#)
- [The News Spot" SAMED calls for an increase in local PPE production](#)

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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

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](https://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 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](mailto: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.  
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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.**

### **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?

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## **COVID-19 UPDATES, NOTICES, LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS**

### **President's Message: 23 April 2020**

On 23 April 2020, President Cyril Ramaphosa made a statement on SA's response to the coronavirus pandemic. The president reiterated that because the coronavirus can spread so rapidly through a population, it can overwhelm even the best-resourced health system within a matter of weeks. Very few health systems across the world – if any – are prepared for a sudden and exponential increase in people requiring treatment for a severe respiratory illness.

As a result, if the virus spreads too quickly, there are not enough hospital beds, intensive care units, ventilators, personal protection equipment or medicine for everyone who needs them. By delaying the spread of the virus, we have had time to prepare our health facilities and mobilise some of the essential medical supplies needed to meet the inevitable increase in infections.

The World Health Organization has commended South Africa for acting swiftly and for following scientific advice to delay the spread of the virus. Yet, while a nation-wide lockdown is probably the most effective means to contain the spread of the coronavirus, it cannot be sustained indefinitely. It is to this end that the president announced a gradual and phased recovery of economic activity starting on the 1st of May 2020.

**Read the full speech [here](#).**

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### **Level 5 to 4, NOT level 5 to Zero**

It is critically important that your business, your staff, your association, your members are clear on what the President said last night.

#### **The Lockdown is NOT being lifted.**

It is being eased, but:

1. only for CERTAIN sectors and subsectors and potentially unevenly per province or area
2. only for CERTAIN activities and
3. subject to STRINGENT controls

Overarching principles for resuming (partial) operations relate to considerations as to -

1. whether an eased business could contribute to the transmission of the virus
2. whether the business has PPE for its staff
3. whether the business can screen staff for COVID regularly
4. whether the business can implement social distancing
5. whether it would place health sector capacity to deal with the pandemic, which is projected to only peak in September, under pressure

Then, sectors for easing are identified based on:

1. their contribution to the economy (health, unfortunately, is not a big contributor),
2. the impact on employment (e.g. mass retrenchments), and
3. the impact on businesses (large scale closures).

As can be seen from the Presidential slide set, very few health sector businesses would re-open as an economic priority e.g. in level 4 or lower (save for those rendering essential services and goods, as defined in the Regulations, who could continue to do so).

One should bear in mind that the industrial classifications of sectors are quite wide, with health companies and practices often hidden within them. If sectors or subsectors operating in the health sector is convinced they'd be able to comply with these criteria, submission can be made to the various Ministries for limited re-opening, with the conditions and assurances required on the above principles, set out clearly.

We understand that many are requiring re-opening due to financial distress. This in itself is not a criterion, in particular as many financial relief benefits do exist. We urge health sector businesses and practices to make use of these mechanisms. Rather than run the risk of criminal sanction due to opening in contravention of the law, you can obtain assistance from [Elsabe Klinck and Associates](#) or others on this aspect.

**Download the Presidential slide set [here](#).**

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## Summary of alert levels

**HOME**  
SAVE SOUTH AFRICA

ALERT LEVEL 5	ALERT LEVEL 4	ALERT LEVEL 3	ALERT LEVEL 2	ALERT LEVEL 1
 <b>OBJECTIVE</b>				
Drastic measures to contain the spread of the virus and save lives.	Extreme precautions to limit community transmission and outbreaks, while allowing some activity to resume.	Restrictions on many activities, including at workplaces and socially, to address a high risk of transmission.	Physical distancing and restrictions on leisure and social activities to prevent a resurgence of the virus.	Most normal activity can resume, with precautions and health guidelines followed at all times.  Population prepared for an increase in alert levels if necessary.

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



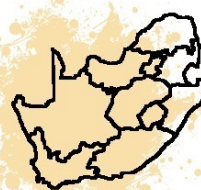
  @PresidencyZA | [www.stateofthenation.gov.za](http://www.stateofthenation.gov.za)

**STAY  
HOME**  
SAVE SOUTH AFRICA

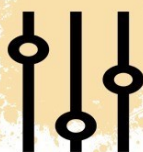
## How the alert system works



The **level of alert** at any given time will be decided based on the **rate of transmission**, as well as the capacity of the health system to provide care to those infected.



Different **parts of the country** may be at **different levels** simultaneously.



It is possible to **move up and down levels**, as well as to skip levels if necessary.



**Essential goods and services** will continue to be available at all levels.



Some precautions will **remain in place at all levels**, including **social distancing** guidelines and **safe hygiene** practices.



Download a more detailed summary [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.



Download this notice, [here](#).

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### National Treasury: Further tax measures to combat COVID-19

Government recognises that the far-reaching lockdown measures to contain the spread of the coronavirus are having a significant impact on our economy. The Minister of Finance announced the details of an initial set of measures on 29 March 2020 to assist tax compliant businesses with cash flow assistance and provide an incentive for businesses to retain their lower-income employees. In line with the President's address to the nation on 21 April 2020, the Minister of Finance provides more detail on the second set of measures that aim to assist individuals and businesses through the pandemic.

The interventions include:

- Skills development levy holiday
- Fast-tracking of value-added tax (VAT) refunds
- Three-month deferral for filing and first payment of carbon tax liabilities
- A deferral for the payment of excise taxes on alcoholic beverages and tobacco products
- Postponing the implementation of some Budget 2020 measures
- An increase in the expanded employment tax incentive amount
- An increase in the proportion of tax to be deferred and in the gross income threshold for automatic tax deferrals
- Case-by-case application to SARS for waiving of penalties

The following tax measures aim to assist individual taxpayers and to provide financial backing from the fiscus to donate to the Solidarity Fund:



Download the media statement with relative contact information [here](#).

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### United Nations commends South Africa's Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

The United Nations has applauded South Africa's response to the COVID-19 pandemic which has focussed on saving and protecting lives, livelihoods and businesses with particular emphasis on those persons who are most vulnerable. South Africa has demonstrated bold and decisive leadership through its strategies to intensify the public health response to COVID-19, develop a comprehensive package of economic support measures to assist businesses and individuals affected by the pandemic and develop a programme of increased social support to protect poor and vulnerable households.

The UN further calls on South Africa to ensure that the response and recovery efforts engage and mobilize the affected, and at-risk communities including children, elderly people, the unemployed, the homeless, persons with disabilities, LGBT people, persons in the informal sector and rural areas, migrants, refugees and asylum seekers and people living with HIV or other underlying conditions such as tuberculosis.

Download the press release [here](#).

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### Corporate Governance and COVID-19

In a snap session hosted by Elsabe Klinck and Associates, Michael Judin highlighted what the first steps that need to be taken when addressing reopening business.

1. Confront reality and face the hard truths. This does not mean it has to be all negative, but rather that you are able to make practical, functional and necessary decisions.
2. Act decisively, delays can be harmful
3. Lean on your Team/Board - you cannot do it alone, and you will need support. Set up sub-committees in the business that are tasked with driving initiatives and who will feedback to the board
4. Communicate lavishly, ethically and transparently. You need to be honest and not try to hide anything from your stakeholders (who could be your employees, your investors, your supply chain, your customers, your bankers or lender, etc.)
5. Develop your business continuity plan. It is unlikely that any business continuity plan would have included a pandemic scenario. Succession planning will be integral to this.

Remember the buck stops with the board/top management. While they can delegate duties to others, they cannot abdicate responsibility. Ensuring that they work within outcomes-based good governance principles is essential. Please see some resources below:

- [The business judgement rule](#)
- [COVID-19 commercial relief](#)
- [On s77 and the duties of Directors now](#)
- [On HCP practices as small businesses](#)
- [On the duty of a Director \(representing one entity versus duty versus entity on whose Board they sit - not only a SOC issue, but also very much a multinational/local SA subsidiary issue\)](#)
- [On women and easing of lockdown](#)

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### BSA Update: Invitation: Risk Assessment Presentation

Business for SA has performed a comprehensive risk assessment of the significant strategic risks arising from the COVID-19 crisis. The risk assessment has gone beyond the conventional two-dimensional approach to depicting risk and has taken a four-dimensional view by including considerations of risk interconnectedness and velocity. This enables consideration of the contagion effect of risks and will assist to identify and highlight those risks which, when addressed, will have the greatest effect on mitigating the other risks. **To view the full document, [click here](#).**

Given the technical nature of the assessment set out in this report BSA would encourage the participation of the presentation sessions as per the slots below:

Tues, 05 May; 07:30 to 08:30am

Tues, 12 May; 07:30 to 08:30am

Wed, 06 May; 07:30 to 08:30am

Wed, 13 May; 07:30 to 08:30am

Thurs, 07 May; 07:30 to 08:30am

Thurs, 14 May; 07:30 to 08:30am

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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](http://www.solidarityfund.co.za)

**For more information email** [info@solidarityfund.co.za](mailto:info@solidarityfund.co.za)

**For offers of supply of Medicines and Medical Devices send**

**to** [covid19supplies@businessresponsecovid19.co.za](mailto:covid19supplies@businessresponsecovid19.co.za)

**If you are seeking PPE for your hospital, clinic, or NGO please email your request**

**to** [covid19requests@businessresponsecovid19.co.za](mailto:covid19requests@businessresponsecovid19.co.za)

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## COVID-19 RELATED PRODUCT REQUESTS

### Request for COVID-19 products

SAMED has received a request for infrared digital thermometer to test staff prior to them entering the 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](mailto:james.meakings@azochem.co.za)

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### 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](mailto:support@respiratornz.co.nz). **Visit their website** [for more information.](#)

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## COVID-19 DEVELOPMENTS

### TRACKING THE PANDEMIC

#### Biggest daily spike in new cases and Western Cape has most cases

Thursday coronavirus figures supplied by Department of Health:

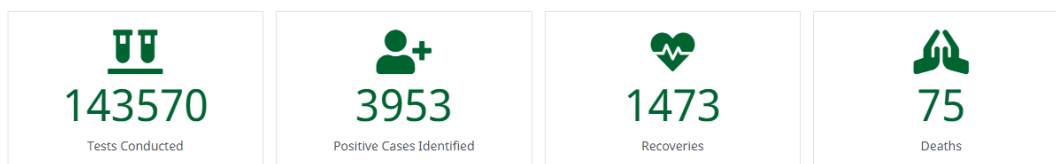
- New infections: 318 – the highest on any day since the first infection
- Total infections: 3 953
- Total number of deaths: 75, up by 10 overnight.

Health Minister Zweli Mkhize, said the increase in cases was concerning but reflected the intensified community and screening campaign that is taking place across the country. (News24)

To date, 143 570 COVID-19 tests have been conducted. Data shows 89 501 of the tests have been conducted in the private sector, while the public sector has tested 54 069 people.

The Western Cape has overtaken Gauteng as the new epicentre with 1 279 confirmed cases. Gauteng recorded 1 252 cases by 23 April and KwaZulu-Natal 807.

#### COVID-19 Statistics in South Africa



### CHANGES IN REGULATIONS



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economic and social life. He stressed the government would adopt a “measured and incremental approach” in which it would balance the need to resume economic activity with the imperative of containing the pandemic.

He outlined a five-level system of restrictions, with level 5 – the most severe – corresponding to the current lockdown. He announced that the country, in general, would move to level 4 – which will allow a return to business in some sectors under very controlled conditions and will permit a few social indulgences.

However, different provinces, municipal districts and metro areas could vary from the national classification, depending on their level of risk in terms of the spread of the epidemic and the ability of the health system to cope.

The main features of level 4 are contained in the News 24 article below. Readers of this summary are advised to watch follow-up media conferences by specific Ministers later today.

***Here is what level 4 looks like currently:***

- Borders will remain closed to international travel, except for the repatriation of South African nationals and foreign citizens.
- No travel will be allowed between provinces, except for the transportation of goods and exceptional circumstances such as funerals.
- All gatherings, apart from funerals and for work, will remain prohibited.
- Some businesses will be allowed to resume operations under specific conditions. (These sectors are still to be announced.)
- The public is encouraged to stay at home, other than for essential personal movement, doing essential work and work in sectors that are under controlled openings.
- The elderly, and those with underlying conditions, must remain at home and take additional precautions to isolate themselves.
- People can exercise under strict public health conditions. (These conditions have still not been announced.)
- The sale of cigarettes will be permitted.
- Public transportation will continue to operate, with limitations on the number of passengers and stringent hygiene requirements, including that all passengers must wear face masks.
- The range of goods that may be sold will be extended to incorporate certain additional categories. (These must still be detailed by the relevant ministers.)

Continued restrictions include:

- Bars and shebeens will remain closed.
- Conference and convention centres, entertainment venues, cinemas, theatres, and concerts will remain closed.
- Concerts, sporting events, and religious, cultural and social gatherings will not be allowed until it is deemed safe for them to continue.

## THE HEALTH SECTOR

### **Mkhize furious with Eastern Cape health team, sends reinforcements**

News 24 reports that Health Minister Zweli Mkhize took dramatic steps on Tuesday to bolster Nelson Mandela Bay's fight against COVID-19 after it emerged that the Eastern Cape government failed to provide adequate resources for the municipality to tackle the pandemic.

A metro councillor told News24 that Mkhize was not impressed with Eastern Cape MEC for Health Gomba's performance and that of her administration. Furious with a report on the metro's response, the health minister cancelled a planned site visit to Zwile and KwaDwesi, the councillor said.

"What made the situation tense was when he heard of critical vacancies. There is no district director. There is no clear plan of how many beds are available in hospitals. The province is only starting to do renovations now in hospitals. Staff are not trained for screening and testing. The staff have no proper skills on how to take care of [those who are] affected. Those who have passed on are wrapped in sheets instead of the protective material. There is no protective clothing for workers. Zweli was clear that without the municipality, it would be a mess. He said [what] saved the Bay is a strong municipal direction," the councillor said.

The councillor said Mkhize appointed a new district director and assured them that protective clothing would be sent.

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manufactured per week and an order for 1 000 000 aprons, surgical gowns and coveralls for a large hospital chain is about to commence. TCI also forms part of a group of factories that signed a collective agreement with the bargaining council to supply 45 million masks to the Department of Education.

### **Unilever confirms 30 employees and 12 contractors infected**

Unilever South Africa has confirmed that 30 of its employees and 12 contractors tested positive for COVID-19 at its factory in Boksburg, Ekurhuleni.

"An employee at the plant first reported a positive test for COVID-19 the weekend before Easter, a week after the employee was last on-site," corporate affairs and sustainable business director South Africa Shobna Persadh told News24 on Tuesday.

Unilever South Africa immediately traced all the direct contacts and advised them to self-isolate, she said. Operations at the Boksburg plant were paused to undertake a deep clean.

A full testing and tracing programme launched by Unilever and the Department of Health covered approximately 680 employees and contractors. It found that 30 employees and 12 contractors were positive for the virus. "They will remain in quarantine until cleared to return to work. Our thoughts are with them for a speedy recovery," Persadh said.

Gauteng Health authorities confirmed to News24 on Thursday that it met with Unilever SA on Wednesday and that the said plant will resume operations.

### **Dis-Chem to be prosecuted for price-gouging**

The Competition Commission has referred Dis-Chem to the Competition Tribunal for prosecution for excessive pricing during the coronavirus outbreak, according to reports by News24, SAfm and eNCA.

The Commission said it received "several complaints from the public against several retail stores owned by Dis-Chem for engaging in excessive pricing of face masks, specifically dusk and surgical masks".

The commission investigated and found:

- Surgical face masks blue 50PC had been increased by 261% between February and March.
- Surgical face masks 5PC were inflated by 43%.

## **SOCIAL ISSUES AND RESPONSES**

### **Gauteng prioritises five groups for food assistance,**

The Gauteng Department of Social Development has identified five target groups of beneficiaries for food parcel distribution as part of the COVID-19 relief interventions. Acting MEC for Social Development, Panyaza Lesufi, named the groups as: the homeless, victims of gender-based violence housed in shelters, child-headed homes, the unemployed, and persons with health issues receiving chronic medication and with no means to get food for themselves.

"If people are not documented to be in the country, it is unfortunate. We will request them to deal with that aspect, so they can be in the queue. We are not discriminating on the basis that you are a South African or not. Our approach is that, if you are inside South Africa, appropriately documented and in need of assistance, we will be open-minded to provide that kind of assistance. "

The MEC has urged non-profit organisations to work with the department of social development to coordinate food distribution, so as to avoid confusion and duplicating delivery to the same beneficiaries. "We don't want to remove [organisations] from distributing and we are saying, let's do it together and it will assist us," Lesufi said.

### **Coronavirus 'exposes fault lines in SA education system'**

News24 reports on an address by Thuma Foundation ambassador Kabelo Mahlobogwane, to a virtual forum hosted by Prof Thuli Madonsela, the Law Trust Chair in Social Justice at Stellenbosch University. Mahlobogwane is also the Gauteng secretary of the Educators' Union of South Africa.

He said the institution of home-schooling and distance learning during the lockdown had highlighted the lack of access to technology, data or, in the most extreme cases, even electricity. "There is a two-tier system: those with the digital capital and those without any services, which reinforces the different ways in which both public and private education in SA produces privilege and thereby a particular form of domination."

The school closures have also left thousands without a secure learning environment as well as access to their only cooked meal of the day, he pointed out. This has resulted in increased stress and anxiety in the face of great uncertainty as pupils are focused on survival instead of self-actualisation.

households where the caregiver is also an essential worker, while many are unable to assist their child as they go to work as they aren't able to do so from home.

The education system was not designed to be run from home, he said, and the challenges involved in doing this made it a breeding ground for dropping out, Mahlobogwane said.

#### **COVID-19: Prison inmates are in immediate danger**

Peter Christians, who was incarcerated for six years at Pollsmoor Prison and now works there facilitating conflict resolution workshops for inmates, writes for GroundUp, highlighting how difficult hygiene practices and social distancing are for inmates, even under "normal" circumstances. To read this first-hand account go to:

<https://www.groundup.org.za/article/covid-19-prison-inmates-are-immediate-danger/>  
<https://www.groundup.org.za/article/covid-19-prison-inmates-are-immediate-danger/>

#### **RESEARCH AND RELATED ISSUES**

##### **First European human trial of a coronavirus vaccine begins in Oxford.**

BBC reports that two volunteers were injected in Oxford yesterday as the first of more than 800 people recruited for the study.

Half the participants will receive the COVID-19 vaccine and half a control vaccine which protects against meningitis but not coronavirus. The design of the trial means volunteers will not know which vaccine they are getting, though doctors will.

The vaccine was developed in under three months by a team at Oxford University. Sarah Gilbert, professor of vaccinology at the Jenner Institute, led the pre-clinical research.

"Personally I have a high degree of confidence in this vaccine," she said. "Of course, we have to test it and get data from humans. We have to demonstrate it actually works and stops people getting infected with coronavirus before using the vaccine in the wider population."

##### **Antiviral drug for coronavirus reportedly fails in first randomised clinical trial**

There had been widespread hope that remdesivir could treat COVID-19 but a Chinese trial showed that the drug had not been successful, according to draft documents accidentally published by the World Health Organization.

The drug did not improve patients' conditions or reduces the pathogen's presence in the bloodstream, it said.

The US firm behind the drug, Gilead Sciences, said the document had mischaracterised the study. News of the failed trial spread after the WHO posted details on its clinical trials database before it was removed. It showed that researchers studied 237 patients, administering the drug to 158 and comparing their progress with the remaining 79, who received a placebo.

After a month, 13.9% of the patients taking the drug had died compared to 12.8% of those receiving the placebo. The trial was stopped early because of side-effects. "Remdesivir was not associated with clinical or virological benefits," the summary states.

##### **US vaccine expert to file whistleblower complaint**

BBC reports that a vaccine expert who says he lost his job because he disagreed with Donald Trump's claims about treatments for COVID-19 is to file a whistleblower complaint, his lawyers say.

Dr Rick Bright led the US government agency trying to develop a vaccine for the coronavirus. He says he was ousted for questioning the potential of hydroxychloroquine, an anti-malaria drug touted by Mr Trump. President Trump, he had "never heard" of Dr Bright.

The president has previously mentioned the use of hydroxychloroquine and the related drug chloroquine as a possible "game-changer" for COVID-19. However, many experts have cautioned that hydroxychloroquine could be ineffective, or even dangerous.

"In our filing, we will make clear that Dr Bright was sidelined for one reason only - because he resisted efforts to provide unfettered access to potentially dangerous drugs, including chloroquine, a drug promoted by the administration as a panacea, but which is untested and possibly deadly when used improperly," a statement from the doctor's lawyers said.

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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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