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COVID-19 news from SAMED, Government and Abroad.

CONSOLIDATED COVID-19 DIRECTION ON HEALTH & SAFETY IN THE WORKPLACE

On 17 March 2020, the Department of Employment and Labour issued guidelines for employers to deal with COVID-19 at workplaces. In the period since the issuing of the guidelines, a clearer picture has emerged about COVID -19 and the nature of the hazard and risk in the workplace and the precautions that should be taken to minimise the risk.

The purpose of these directions is to stipulate measures that must be taken by employers in order to protect the health and safety of workers and members of the public who enter their workplaces or are exposed to their working activities. These directions give effect to those Regulations and seek to ensure that the measures taken by employers under OHSA are consistent with the overall national strategies and policies to minimise the spread of COVID -19.

This Direction is based on infection transmission prevention and specific occupational hygiene practices that focus on the need for employers to implement measures to mitigate or eliminate the transmission of the virus in the workplace. This Direction recognises that there are sector-specific measures that need to be taken into account and accordingly provides for sector guidelines to supplement this Direction.

This Direction does not reduce the existing obligations of the employer in terms of OHSA nor prevent an employer from implementing measures that are more stringent in order to prevent the spread of the virus.

Download the consolidated document [here](#).

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BUSINESS FOR SOUTH AFRICA HOSTED ON DISCOVERY TALKS

A Discovery Talks webinar saw Business for South Africa's [Martin Kingston](#) reflecting on the challenges and the successes to date and many other interesting topics, including:

- The engagement model with Government and its recent and dynamic transformation
- The remarkable volunteerism experienced to date
- The economy's new growth trajectory; what it will take to restore it; and the call for a new social compact between Government, business, civil society and organised labour
- The unprecedented focus given to resolving existing issues (energy sector; education system; SME development etc.)

Listen to the webinar here: <https://discv.co/B4SACovid19>

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PUBLICATION OF THE ALLOCATION TO HEALTH.

This information relates to the following Eastern Cape Provincial Department: This information is published in terms of Section 25 of the PFMA, the MEC for Finance had to reprioritise funds towards the Department of Health, for immediate response to COVID-19 pandemic, and in line with the emergency provisions of Section 25 of the PFMA.

The emergency funding has been financed from a 45 per cent cut in travel and subsistence budgets for

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Policy Interventions	R'000	Purpose of the allocation
Tests	101 100	The purpose of the allocation is for the laboratory tests. The provincial department will pay for Covid19 tests on a fee for service basis
Ventilators	12 000	The purpose of the allocation is towards purchasing of the ventilators to provide temporary ventilatory support or respiratory assistance to patients who cannot breathe on their own or who require assistance to maintain adequate ventilation.
Field Hospitals	30 000	The purpose of allocation is towards building of emergency field hospitals and additional hospital beds.
Enrolled nurses and nursing assistants	164 000	The purpose is towards complementing allocation for the appointment of the 822 nurses for the period of 12 months
Total	307 100	

Download the notice [here](#).[Back to top](#)

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](#).



CLICK HERE



REPORT UNLICENCED COMPANIES TO SAHPRA

Several members have contact SAMED about companies trading medical technologies without a SAHPRA Medical Device Establishment License. These companies are trading illegally and it is essential that they be reported to SAHPRA for investigation.

SAHPRA has published a list of licenced companies under documents on their [medical devices page](#) which you can use to check if the company has a Medical Device Establishment License before sending a report. You can download this list as at 26 May 2020, [here](#). Please ensure that you visit the SAHPRA website to obtain updates as this is an evolving list.

Report unlicensed companies by emailing: mokgadi.fafudi@sahpra.org.za

IMPORTANT SAHPRA MEDICAL DEVICE NOTICES

- [MD010_Guidance_Rapidly developed ventilators_26May2020_v1](#)
- [PCR Tests Authorised for Listing by SAHPRA – 19.05.2020 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](#)

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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

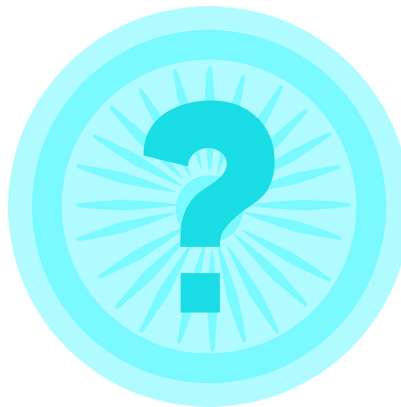
For COVID-19 related applications: Matlapeng Shabalala Matlapeng.Shabalala@sahpra.org.za / 071 302 0409 or

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

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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](#).

PARTICIPATE ON B4SA COVID-19 PROCUREMENT PORTAL

The information collected on the B4SA 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.

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.

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covid19portal@businessresponsecovid19.co.za. If you are not receiving feedback from the administrators, please check your spam/junk folders.

SAMED is 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

WEBINAR: FINDING NEW REALISTIC EXPORT OPPORTUNITIES - COVID-19 EDITION

The NWU's TRADE research focus area and TRADE Research Advisory extend an invitation to the **TRADE-DSM® webinar**.

This will provide non-subscribers with a peek behind the scenes of the TRADE-DSM® and its newly expanded functionality. To assist their users, they worked with some to address requirements for COVID-19 specific dimensions in the TRADE-DSM® to further inform analysis of realistic export opportunities within the context of the pandemic. Additional indicators include:

- WCO/WHO COVID PPE products (HS6);
- COVID-19 market (country) indicators such as number of cases, markets impacted from a logistics and lock-down strategy perspective and stringency of lock-down regimes and
- IMF COVID-19 revised GDP forecasts.

Join them for a **webinar** focused providing some direction on where potential opportunities for product-based trade may be emerging, according to the TRADE-DSM®.

When: 10:00 - 11:00, 9 June 2020

Time: 10:00 – 11:00

The Zoom link will be emailed to registered attendees, on Monday (8 June 2020).

RSVP: Email Francois Fouche to confirm your seat: francois.fouche@tradeadvisory.co.za

Please note seats ARE LIMITED.

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OMMIA HEALTH COVID-19 VIRTUAL EXPO

Ommia Health Live are bringing together the global healthcare industry, for the largest virtual gathering ever seen before, a whole new concept planned from the ground up to be more diverse and accessible, **taking place 22-26 June 2020.**

[Join the experience here](#)

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COVID-19 DEVELOPMENTS

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South Africa. The main event is taking shape and debates over details of lockdown will probably soon be eclipsed by the imperatives of containing and managing the pandemic.

Prof Shabir Madhi, professor of vaccinology at the University of the Witwatersrand, told City Press that the Eastern Cape should brace itself for a **new wave of infections**. "In two weeks' time, the Eastern Cape will be where the Western Cape is [in terms of the surge in cases]. Gauteng will be where the Western Cape is in four weeks' time – and the Western Cape will be three times worse than what it is currently."

Health Minister Zweli Mkhize has pointed out that although the number of the coronavirus deaths is approaching 1 000 (with 44 new deaths reported on Sunday), South Africa's **mortality rate remains at 2%**, well below the global average of 6%.

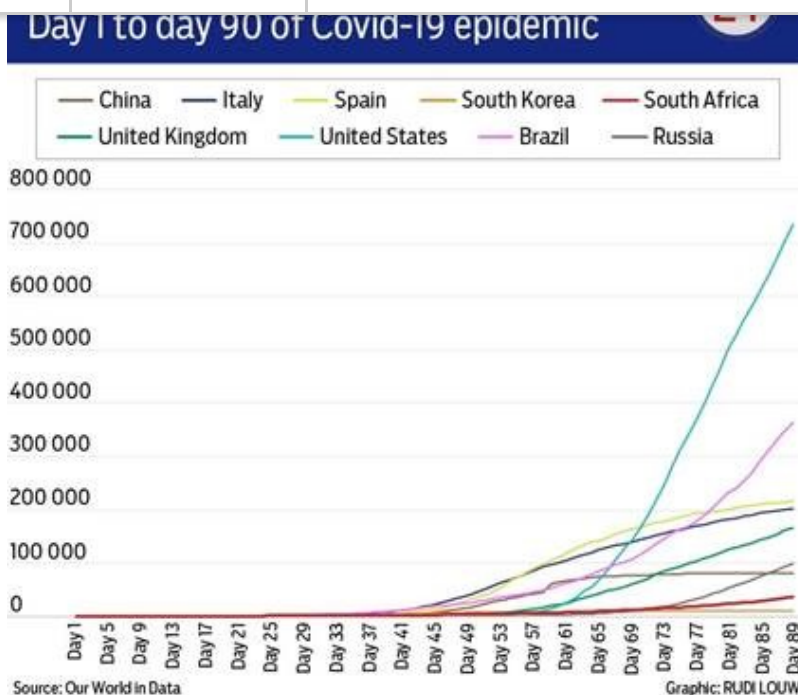
Figures as at 7 June appear below. The second graphic illustrates how South Africa's lockdown **delayed the "take-off" of epidemic relative to other countries** in the first 90 days after the first case was recorded in the respective countries.



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CONTAINING THE PANDEMIC

National government is stepping in to strengthen the COVID-19 responses in the Western Cape and Eastern Cape.

The Sunday Times page 1 lead concerned the assignment of national Ministers to the **Western Cape** to focus on particular districts of the province in partnership with a designated member of the provincial executive council. Inevitably, in a DA-led province, there is speculation about political motives. The Ministers include Bheki Cele, Ebrahim Patel, Fikile Mbalula, Pravin Gordhan and Barbara Creecy.

The **Eastern Cape** is being prepared for a stronger community-based response. Health Minister Zweli Mkhize explained why it was being prioritised. "The Eastern Cape has similar numbers to Gauteng but it has recorded the second-highest mortality numbers and its proximity and interconnectedness with the Western Cape makes the province especially vulnerable. In addition, there is an increase in infection rates among healthcare workers both in the public and private sectors. As of 6 June, the Eastern Cape had recorded 258 COVID-19 positive healthcare workers and 14 COVID-19-related deaths." (News 24)

OTHER HEALTH DEVELOPMENTS

The South African Depression and Anxiety Support Group (SADAG) has seen calls to its helpline increase from about 600 a day before the epidemic to 800 to 1 200 a day since COVID-19 entered our lives. Operations Director Cassey Chambers argues that **too little attention** is paid by businesses to the **mental health support** employees might need as they return to work. She said that SADAG had partnered with Business for South Africa (B4SA) in [developing guidelines for managing mental health](#) during COVID-19. The guidelines were released in May. "Mental health is under prioritised in pretty much all sectors ... we're kind of going one step at a time to really create awareness," Chambers said.

EDUCATION DEVELOPMENTS

School resumes today across the country for learners in grades 7 and 12, who constitute just over 13% of the total school enrolment. Minister of Basic Education Angie Motshekga held an extensive media briefing yesterday, broadcast live on major TV channels. She indicated:

- Approximately **97% of schools** nationwide were ready to open in terms of meeting infrastructural and equipment requirements. The biggest gaps were in the Eastern Cape (406 schools not ready) and Gauteng (100 schools).
- Visiting of schools by anyone who was not a staff member or learner was strongly **discouraged** and should only be by appointment with the principal.
- There were provisions for pupils whose parents did not wish them to return, either because of a health condition or because parents were nervous. **Parents were entitled to keep their children home**, but should follow procedures.

Educationist Prof Jonathan Jansen has been collecting **narratives from learners** about their experiences of studying at home under lockdown. Several of these were published in the Sunday Times. Common experiences were:

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rest of the household slept.

- **Lack of funds for data** prevented many learners from using online facilities. It was literally a choice between using available money for data or food.
- Mass media – **TV and radio – were a lifeline** for disadvantaged students but offered only limited support.

BUSINESS & ECONOMICS

- Business insider SA reports that **domestic passenger flights** have resumed between Johannesburg's O.R. Tambo International Airport and Cape Town.
- The small independent airline CemAir was the first to take flight on Friday. Air travel for business purposes only is now permitted under Alert Level 3. Both Mango and FlySafAir will start flying on Monday, June 15th. SAA is also selling tickets for mid-June – but [its business rescue practitioners say there is “no certainty” it will be in a position to fly.](#)

In a feature article for Fin24, Marius Strydom explores how a **grand plan for renewables** could turn COVID-19 into an opportunity for South Africa. Read the full article [here](#).

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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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