

☑ Share this with those who need to know



COVID-19 news from SAMED, Government and Abroad.



PREVENTING AND MANAGING CORONAVIRUS INFECTION IN THE WORKPLACE

The Western Cape Provincial Government has put together a guidance document on the prevention of coronavirus spread in the workplace and the issues to address when dealing with coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) infected employees.

The document contains three sections:

- The first section provides background on how the coronavirus is spread and what can be done to prevent the spread of the virus.
- The second section provides advice on what to do, should someone in the workplace become infected with the coronavirus.
- The third section provides additional guidance to specific sectors with regards to preventing coronavirus infection.

For any further queries please contact Dr Gavin Reagon on Gavin.Reagon@westerncape.gov.za
Download the guidance document [here](#).

[Back to top](#)

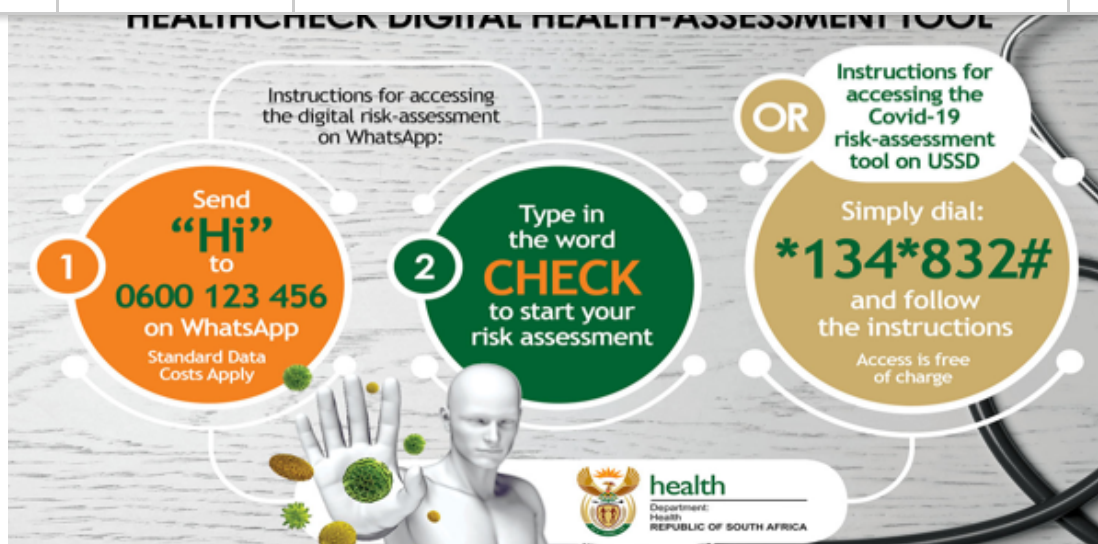


SOUTH AFRICANS ENCOURAGED TO USE COVID-19 DIGITAL HEALTH ASSESSMENT TOOL

Dial *134*832#

Follow the menu instructions and answer a series of short questions.

The National Department of Health (NDoH) recently launched HealthCheck, an innovative digital health assessment tool which allows for early detection, mapping and management of COVID-19 cases using USSD and the official COVID-19 WhatsApp service. The innovation comes at a crucial moment in the South African government's COVID-19 response when certain aspects of the country's lockdown are being relaxed and more responsibility is being placed on individuals to ensure their own health when



Members of the public will be able to use HealthCheck to self-assess their COVID19 risk by completing a few simple questions. Based on their answers and their symptoms or exposure history, they will be classified as low, moderate or high risk and suggested actions or guidelines will be recommended based on this classification.

Actions could include remote medical advice or a suggestion to visit a nearby healthcare facility.

Importantly, all data from HealthCheck will remain private and secure and will only be used by the NDoH and NICD to map possible infections or future outbreaks and input into epidemiological models to inform decision-making on the national response to COVID-19. HealthCheck is available on USSD for those without access to airtime or internet, with network operators MTN, Telkom and Vodacom having made access to the USSD line free. Unstructured Supplementary Service Data (USSD), sometimes referred to as "Quick Codes" or "Feature codes", is a communications protocol used by GSM cellular telephones to communicate with the mobile network operator's computers.

The USSD version is available by dialling *134*832# where people are prompted to follow the menu instructions and answer a series of short questions.



The questions that are asked on the USSD line include location (province and town), age category, symptoms (fever, cough, sore throat), exposure to infected people and acceptance of terms and conditions and confirmation that the NDoH can contact them.

The risk-assessment screening tool has also been added to the list of menu items on the NDoH's COVID-19 Connect WhatsApp Helpline. The helpline, which has had over 6 million users since its launch is activated by messaging 'hi' to 0600 123 456. The availability of HealthCheck on both platforms means that the National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD) and NDoH guidelines on self-isolation, testing or whether users should seek medical care will reach many more people during the current COVID-19 pandemic.

The HealthCheck digital risk-assessment and mapping tool will be available in all 11 official languages starting with English, isiZulu, isiXhosa, SeSotho and Afrikaans.

[Back to top](#)



COVID-19 STATE OF DISASTER AND LOCKDOWN REGULATIONS: PMG 8 JUNE 2020 UPDATE

STATE OF DISASTER

- On 4 June, Cabinet [announced](#) its decision to extend the State of Disaster by one month to 15 July. The [extension](#) was gazetted on 5 June.

REOPENING WORKPLACE

- Occupational health and safety measures applicable to reopening workplaces during the COVID-19 State of Disaster are 'consolidated' in a new ministerial [directive](#) gazetted on 4 June. Among other things, it sets out:
 - the procedures to be followed by an employee refusing to perform a task that could increase the risk of exposure to COVID-19
 - the process to be followed when preparing a workplace plan, and
 - related measures, including those focusing on:
 - social distancing
 - health and safety, and
 - ventilation
 - the requirements of sector-specific protocols and guidelines.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

- Measures to be taken on board commercial passenger aircraft featured in a [speech](#) delivered on 3 June by Transport Minister Fikile Mbalula during an inspection of OR Tambo International Airport. However, they are not included in the 30 May [amendment](#) to his 31 March [directive](#) on air services.
- According to the Minister:
 - the 'the last row' of seats in an aircraft cabin will be 'reserved for (the) isolation of suspected (COVID-19) cases'
 - otherwise, commercial airliners will be allowed to carry their full passenger complement
 - in-flight catering and on-board magazines will be prohibited
 - boarding will begin with passengers allocated 'rear seats', working towards the front
 - 'baggage wrapping' will be 'compulsory for all check-in luggage'
 - 'masks must be worn for the duration of the flight', and
 - aircraft 'must be disinfected before entering into service and after each flight'.
- Each airport operating during lockdown level three is expected to have a 'public health plan' in place.

ACCESS TO LIVING ANNUITIES

- On 1 June, two notices were gazetted 'expanding' access to living annuity funds as one of the economic support measures announced on 24 April by Finance Minister Tito [Mboweni](#). They confirm:
 - the new upper and lower drawdown [limits](#), and
 - the lump sum withdrawal [threshold](#).

JUSTICE SERVICE

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

- o restricting civil motion applications and trials to those understood to be 'urgent', and
- o confirming that legal practitioners may offer any services not prohibited by the 28 May disaster management [regulations](#).

FINANCIAL SERVICES

- The exemption from paying VAT on imported essential goods on arrival in SA expired on Friday, according to a [notice](#) gazetted on 3 June by the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition. The purpose of the exemption was to provide some relief to businesses importing goods declared 'essential' under the 25 March disaster management [regulations](#). Now that the economy is re-opening, it is no longer considered necessary.
- As one of the steps taken by the Financial Sector Conduct Authority to avoid an 'economic catastrophe' during the COVID-19 epidemic, companies listed on the main board of the JSE may now issue 'shares for cash resolution' with the written consent of shareholders, without calling a general meeting. This was announced last week in a [notice](#) dated 28 May.
- The 1 June commencement of Chapter 14 of the 2017 Financial Sector Regulation Act (ombuds) has been [postponed](#) to 1 November (possibly because of COVID-19 lockdown measures, although this is not clear).

[Back to top](#)

DEPARTMENT OF SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT ON SMMEs IN DISTRESS, COVID-19 INTERVENTION MEASURES AND FUNDING FOR SMMEs

The Department of Small Business Development (DSBD) briefed the joint Committees on the support provided by two of its entities – the Small Enterprise Finance Agency (SEFA) and Small Enterprise Development Agency (SEDA) -- to small businesses struggling to survive in the wake of COVID-19's impact on the economy. It said the applications for financial relief were overwhelming, and funds were drying up. The DSBD was engaging with National Treasury, which had promised that the Department would be given more funds in order to respond to outstanding claims that were legitimate and met the criteria. Further opportunities were available for those businesses which had registered their employees with the Department of Employment and Labour (DEL).

The Department presented an update on their COVID-19 response interventions and lessons learned in minimising the negative effects on small businesses. The presentation described the SEFA administered interventions; the SEDA administered support; the number of applications received per province; the implementation status of small, medium and micro-enterprise (SMME) debt relief; the payment holiday for SEFA funded clients; and the Spaza Shops Support Programme (SSSP).

The Department was asked how it could support more of the 100 000 spaza shops in the country; how to get commercial banks to be less stringent with their lending criteria; why sole proprietors of small businesses were being excluded; whether businesses that were not Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment (BBBEE) compliant were eligible for support; and what could be done to focus more on women, rural areas, youth and townships, as this was where the traditional people were, who had been marginalised for the longest time.

Download the minutes of the meeting [here](#).

Download the presentation [here](#).

[Back to top](#)

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](#)
- [SAHPRA clarifies the issue of COVID-19 Rapid Test Kits](#)
- [MEDICAL DEVICES INCLUDING IN-VITRO DIAGNOSTICS \(IVDS\) REQUIREMENTS FOR SUPPLY OF MEDICAL DEVICES IN LIGHT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC](#)

[Back to top](#)

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

[Back to top](#)

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

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.

If you have any questions about the status of your registration, on the types of PPE and medical equipment that B4SA are procuring, if you are struggling to complete your application, or if you have any other queries, please get in touch with the B4SA support team via 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.

[Back to top](#)

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

COVID-19 EVENTS

OMMIA HEALTH COVID-19 VIRTUAL EXPO

Omnia 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](#)

[Back to top](#)

Copyright © 2020 SAMED, All rights reserved.

Telephone: 011 704 2440 - Email: info@samed.org.za - www.samed.org.za

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

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.

Disclaimer: The information contained in the mailer is for general information purposes only. The information is provided by SAMED and while SAMED endeavours to ensure the information is current and correct, it makes no representations or warranties of any kind, express or implied, about the completeness, accuracy, reliability, suitability or availability with respect to the information, services, or related graphics contained in this mailer for any purpose. Any reliance the user places on such information is therefore strictly at the user's own risk. In no event will SAMED be liable for any loss or damage including without limitation, indirect or consequential loss or damage, or any loss or damage whatsoever arising from loss of data or profit arising out of or in connection with the contents or use of this mailer.