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COVID-19 news from SAMED, Government and Abroad.



BUSA CALL ON MEMBERS TO PARTICIPATE IN THEIR SURVEY WITH TIPS ON PROSPECTS FOR BUSINESS UNDER LEVEL 3

With limited responses to the survey so far, BUSA appeal to members to complete the BUSA / TIPS survey on business conditions under level 3. They will be able to accommodate responses submitted over the weekend.

BUSA is partnering with TIPS on a survey, which aims to provide insight into the challenges businesses face as the country moves to Level 3, what the likely employment implications are over the next few months, and how government support can be refined especially as the UIF's special COVID-19 TERS programme draws to an end. It builds on the insights from the survey conducted in April, as the lockdown began.

They would greatly appreciate your support in helping to improve government understanding of the challenges faced by business. Please answer as fully as you can; feel free to add a comment on any of the questions. If the questions are unclear, please contact Neva Makgetla at 079 516 0450 or neva@tips.org.za. Information will only be published or included in documentation in an anonymous form, where the company cannot be identified unless you indicate otherwise.

Download the survey here.

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SARS RULE AMENDMENT NOTICE R670 UNDER SECTION 19A, 54AA, 105 and 120

Relief measures under the Customs and Excise Act, 1964 to assist in alleviating the negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in the Customs and Excise sphere, including – DAR197

- insertion of rule 19A.11 concerning deferral of certain excise duty payments;
- amendment of rules 54FD.04 and 54FD.05 concerning deferral of first carbon tax submissions and payments; and
- insertion of rules 105.01 to 105.04 concerning instalment payment

The effective date of the rule amendments is 12 June 2020, except for rule 19A.11, which commences retrospectively on 1 May 2020.

Download the amendment here.

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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 <u>medical devices</u> <u>page</u> 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, <u>here.</u> 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

- <u>MD010_Guidance_Rapidly developed ventilators_26May2020_v1</u>
- PCR Tests Authorised for Listing by SAHPRA 19.05.2020Specification 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
- <u>Regulatory Requirements for the manufacture, distribution or wholesale of Serological</u>
 <u>COVID-19 Rapid Test Kits</u>
- 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

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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

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For general licensing queries: June Searela june.searela@sahpra.org.za / 072 828 2416 For COVD-19 related applications: Matlapeng Shabalala <u>Matlapeng.Shabalala@sahpra.org.za</u> / 071 302 0409 or

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

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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 <u>here</u> You can also find useful tools on the <u>Return2Work website</u>.

PARTICIPATE ON B4SA COVID-19 PROCUREMENT PORTAL

The information collected on the B4SA <u>covid19manager.co.za</u> 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 <u>link to the video</u> for an explanation of how to use the portal and click on <u>https://covid19manager.co.za/</u> to add your company and product information.

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.

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THE SOLIDARITY FUND

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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 <u>www.solidarityfund.co.za</u> For more information email <u>info@solidarityfund.co.za</u>

For offers of supply of Medicines and Medical Devices send to <u>covid19supplies@businessresponsecovid19.co.za</u> 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

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

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EVENT : AFRICA AND COVID-19 WEBINAR SERIES: COVID-19 AND THE WORKFORCE IN AFRICA

COVID-19 simultaneously presents a global pandemic and an economic recession; healthcare-related decisions will impact the economy, and lack of economic security will have healthcare-related outcomes. How are companies and their employees impacted by lockdown, quarantine, and social distancing? Despite a growing digital economy, the sector remains small, and only a limited percentage of work can be done virtually. What is the impact on employers and employees? What will be the impact on households and individuals in a continent where more than half of economic activity is within the informal sector? Join the Harvard webinar as they discuss these points.

When: Wednesday, June 17, 2020, 10:00am to 11:00am Register for the webinar <u>here</u>. Find out more about the topic and speakers <u>here</u>.

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COVID-19 DEVELOPMENTS

TRACKING THE PANDEMIC

Subscribe	Past Issues									Transla
	Active C		elative to Population 0.0996%		1,284	Relative to Population 0.002185%		Total Tests 1,028,399		
	Gauteng	Western Cape	KwaZulu Natal	Free State	Eastern Cape	Limpopo	Mpumalanga	North West	Northern Cape	
	7,953	37,422	3,472	406	7,868	267	228	757	132	
					Daily Increase					
	758	1,401	125	5	714	10	21	100	7	

COVID-19 in SA: Death toll hits 1 284, cases at 58 568 as 1 million tests are recorded

Of the more than one million tests performed to date, 52% were done in public laboratories, while 48% were in the private sector. The number of confirmed coronavirus cases as of 11 June, is 58 568. According to a statement by Health Minister Zweli Mkhize, 29 999 tests were conducted in the last 24 hours.

'It's really scary': Health workers anxious as COVID-19 peak approaches

- The nation's healthcare workers bear the brunt of COVID-19. Their work makes them more
 vulnerable to contracting the virus and as infection rates rise, so too does their anxiety, says Dr
 Pieter Roelofse a specialist in internal medicine. He said in his 18 years of practicing, he's never
 experienced anything as riddled with uncertainty as COVID-19.
- "Specifically, how infectious this COVID-19 is, how unpredictable it behaves. You're never 100% sure who's going to end up in hospital or not and the emotional toll it's taking on patients and healthcare professionals, it's really scary, to be honest."

WHO warns pandemic accelerating in Africa - 25% of cases in South Africa

- According to an AFP tally, Africa topped the 200 000 mark on Tuesday. "It took 98 days to reach
 the first 100 000 cases, and only 18 days to move to 200 000 cases," Doctor Matshidiso Moeti, the
 WHO's regional director for Africa, told a video briefing hosted by the UN press association in
 Geneva. "Even though these cases in Africa account for less than three percent of the global total,
 it's clear that the pandemic is accelerating."
- Africa has reached 5 635 deaths from 210 519 confirmed cases, according to AFP's count at 11:00 GMT on Thursday. In Africa, "the pandemic is still concentrated in and around capital cities but we are seeing more and more cases spread out into the provinces," Moeti said.
- South Africa accounts for nearly 25 percent of the continent's total cases and more than 70
 percent of the deaths have occurred in just five countries: South Africa, Algeria, Nigeria, Egypt and
 Sudan. Africa's relatively young population compared to other continents, and in-built experience
 of dealing with disease outbreaks have been cited as reasons why Africa has not so far seen the
 death rates experienced on other continents.

Iran second wave of Coronavirus

- Iran has reported more than 2,000 new daily coronavirus cases for the past two weeks a sign the country is experiencing a second wave of infections.
- Global health expert Amir Afkhami said the spike in confirmed cases is the result of three factors: an erosion of public trust, testing delays, and lockdown restrictions that were rolled back too soon.

ECONOMICS, POLITICS, EDUCATION, ENVIRONMENT, SOCIAL

Government working on a plan to re-open cinemas

- In <u>a new set of regulations</u>, which were gazetted on Thursday, the government says it is currently
 working with cinemas on the re-opening of movie theatres. Cinemas are not allowed to operate
 during Level 3 of the national lockdown.
- "The Department (of trade and industry) has received representation from stakeholders in the cinema exhibition industry on the safe re-opening of the sector, and is engaging in a process with stakeholders and the National Department of Health to determine the appropriate protocols for reopening of the sector."
- The regulations have included theatres and cinemas in an arrangement that allows competitors to negotiate among each other, and with their landlords, to lower rent and arrange rent holidays. In normal times, these negotiations are restricted by South Africa's competition laws.
- The regulations also allow for the suspension of clauses in lease agreements that restrict some tenants from "undertaking reasonable measures" required to protect their viability during the national disaster.

Thursday to breach R17/\$. This follows a grim economic outlook published by the US Federal Reserve on Wednesday – which included a pledge to keep interest rates on the low side until 2022 – as well as a fresh batch of unemployment claims. "It seems that the fallout after the Fed meeting yesterday was the final straw that caused the Rand to reverse and give back some of the gains of the past week," said Andre Botha, a senior currency dealer at TreasuryONE, on Thursday afternoon. Calling the reversal "quite an aggressive pull back", Botha said the rand's losses had been amplified by a lack of liquidity in the market.

Lockdown: Cabinet wants scientists to weigh in before any new decisions are taken

 Cabinet has deferred taking any decisions related to amending regulations under alert Level 3 of the national lockdown pending a full health assessment report from the Ministerial Advisory Committee on COVID-19. In a statement issued on Thursday, Cabinet noted that the National Coronavirus Command Council had made a number of recommendations to Cabinet but it decided to defer making any decisions on the matter. "The recommendations are based on submissions made by various sectors and deliberations by the National Joint Operational and Intelligence Structure," said the statement.

Confusion over decision-making powers of NCCC understandable, Dlamini-Zuma concedes

Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs Minister Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma said given the
numerous public statements that attributed government decisions to the National Coronavirus
Command Council (NCCC), it was understandable there was confusion around it. She filed a
responding affidavit in the case brought by Mpiyakhe Dlamini, Duwayne Esau, Tami Jackson,
Lindo Khuzwayo, Mikhail Manuel, Neo Mkwane, Scott Roberts and Riaan Salie - who among other
things - asked the Western Cape High Court in Cape Town to declare the NCCC inconsistent with
the Constitution and Disaster Management Act.

CLINICAL, SCIENTIFIC

Dodgy hand sanitiser may cause big problems for stores - as fears over side-effects grow

- Stores could be facing a rush of lawsuits if people develop health issues from hand sanitiser, an underwriting firm warns. Stores are in a tricky spot, as they're legally required to ensure your hands are sanitised.
- In the rush to source sanitiser, stores might be using products that are poor quality or contain harmful ingredients. That's because it's possible to be allergic to the ingredients in hand sanitiser, say experts. And using too much sanitiser, or the wrong kind can ruin your skin.
- For some people the reaction is immediate, and often presents as a form of eczema: itchy, cracked, burning and inflamed skin. For other people, the allergy will only present itself after hand sanitiser has been used for some time.
- In an effort to cut corners, retailers <u>might be using sanitiser with poor quality ingredients</u> or stuff that is toxic for you, like methanol, which is much cheaper, but much more harmful than ethanol.

Gauteng gearing up for COVID-19 onslaught - Health MEC Bandile Masuku

- Gauteng Health MEC Bandile Masuku on Thursday said his department is taking measures to cope with the expected increase in COVID-19 infections. Gauteng is <u>projected to have the</u> <u>highest number of cases</u> by the end of the year. He added that it was expected that some of the officials in his office would at some point get COVID-19.
- The province has increased its capacity in terms of hospital beds and is looking into establishing field hospitals. The MEC added that around 10 000 ventilators would also be available for critical patients.

Private hospitals will take COVID-19 patients from the public sector, even at a financial loss

- Private healthcare groups told both houses of Parliament's health committees that the rate the state will pay to take patients from the public sector is less than the cost to them but they will take these patients. Representatives from Life Healthcare and Netcare made presentations to the committees on Wednesday.
- Matthew Prior, Life Healthcare's funder relations and health policy executive, said that, after negotiations, the private healthcare sector agreed to take patients from the public sector at a cost of R16 000 per bed, per day. He said this would not cover their stock used on patients in intensive care units. "It is not a sustainable rate," he said.

US experts optimistic in search for Covid-19 vaccine

 Experts believe there will soon be a number of vaccines available to prevent COVID-19. Dr Anthony Fauci, director of the US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, told

ensure the final product is safe. There are, however, concerns about how long a vaccine will remain effective.

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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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