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COVID-19 news from SAMED, Government and Abroad.

LEBOMBO BORDER POST

The Lebombo border post will be closed shortly following a positive COVID-19 case. All trucks currently in the customs control areas are being cleared with the engagement of Mozambique counterparts. The border post will be closed until a deep clean of all offices has been conducted. Truck drivers who have not yet left for Lebombo are advised to use an alternative SA-Mozambique border post (the closest is Mananga).

The [SARS website](#) will be updated when the border post is reopened.

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BUSINESS FOR SA | COVID-19

BUSINESS FOR SA: GUIDANCE NOTE ON LEVEL 3 AMENDMENTS

Introduction

1. In his [national address](#) delivered on 12 July 2020, President Ramaphosa outlined government's response to the current surge in COVID-19 infections in South Africa. Read together with the latest [amendments](#) to the regulations in terms of the Disaster Management Act 57 of 2002 (Regulations), the President's address evinces a further shift in government's Alert Level (AL) 3 strategy as, on the one hand, the scientific understanding of the virus progresses and, on the other, the state tries to mitigate the economic effects of the lockdown.
1. The strategy entails implementing stricter health protocols and enforcing compliance with these, while aiming to permit as much economic activity as possible. Most businesses will continue to operate as they have been thus far under AL3, subject to additional prescribed health and safety obligations. However, employers and property owners should be aware that the amended Regulations pose greater risks of liability for non-compliance than under their previous iteration.

A shift in strategy

1. While the government has not entirely abandoned its risk-adjusted approach, it has taken clear steps in a different direction. First, the President has indicated that, despite COVID-19 infections peaking in Gauteng and the Eastern Cape, there is no prospect of either area reverting to AL4 or AL5. Second, the amended Regulations no longer contain a mechanism for declaring an area to be a "hotspot". The stated reasoning for this change in strategy is a combination of scientific advice that there are limited prospects of a lockdown significantly reducing the spread of infections at this stage, and that there is relative certainty that profound social and economic harm could result from renewed business closures. The amended Regulations therefore focus on individual personal responsibility, and on stricter enforcement of health and safety protocols.
1. Considerable attention is given in the amendments to increased reliance on masks. Cloth facemasks or other appropriate items are required to cover both the nose and mouth and are mandatory in all public places. No person is permitted on public transport, in open spaces, such as streets and parks, or to enter a state-owned building to obtain a good or service, without a mask. All employers are now required to ensure that every employee is wearing a facemask while performing their duties on the business's premises, regardless of whether the employee is exposed to the public in the course of their work.
1. A manager or owner of a building commits a criminal offence if they fail to take reasonable steps to ensure each person in their building is wearing an appropriate mask; and an employer is similarly liable if they allow an employee to perform their duties without wearing a facemask, regardless of

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building; a person is not allowed to be "in" a building used by the public to obtain goods or services without wearing a facemask. Enforcement of this measure may require, for example, implementing patrols in larger shopping centres and displaying signs regarding the correct use of facemasks.

1. If convicted, both offences carry penalties of imprisonment not exceeding six months, a fine, or both such imprisonment and fine.

Relevant amendments

1. The amended Regulations reintroduce a daily curfew between 21h00 and 04h00. Any employees required to work during those hours should be provided with a Form 2 permit, which is the standard form work permit under the Regulations to be issued by the head of the institution or his / her delegee. Movement is also permitted within the hours of curfew to attend to a medical or security emergency. Subject to those exceptions, it is an offence to break curfew.
1. Additional relevant amendments include the stipulation that hotels, lodges, bed and breakfasts, timeshare facilities and resorts and guest houses for leisure purposes are a specific economic exclusion. This means that, while travel for leisure purposes is permitted provided it is within the individual's residential province, accommodation for leisure purposes in one's province of residence is prohibited. The [directions](#) pertaining to accommodation therefore apply only to accommodation required for work purposes or other permitted activities, such as overnight accommodation when attending a funeral or when permanently relocating.
1. The sale and transportation of liquor is also once again prohibited, unless for storage or export purposes, and the sale of tobacco products remains similarly prohibited, though it has been clarified that sale between tobacco farmers, processors and manufacturers is permitted.
1. All auctions are now permitted subject to strict adherence to health protocols and physical distancing measures.

Conclusion

1. The shift to greater individual personal responsibility in government's strategy to address COVID-19 also places greater responsibility on employers and property owners and managers to ensure that safety measures are complied within their businesses. Businesses and heads of institutions are at risk of criminal liability for non-compliance if they do not take continuous measures to enforce the wearing of masks.
1. This requirement is in addition to and does not replace health and safety measures to restrict the number of people in a building and to implement physical distancing protocols. B4SA members are encouraged to take seriously this responsibility to contribute to curbing the spread of COVID-19 and to avoid penalties for non-compliance.

B4SA will continue to engage with government in order to try to provide business and employees with as much notice as is possible of future changes in regulations.

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COVID-19 DEVELOPMENTS

TRACKING THE PANDEMIC

Cumulative Cases	Daily change	Cumulative Fatalities	Mortality Rate	Total Recoveries
298,292	+ 10,496	4,346	1.46%	146,279
Active Cases	Relative to Population		Relative to Population	Total Tests
147,667	0.5075%		0.007394%	2,232,738

Gauteng	Western Cape	KwaZulu Natal	Free State	Eastern Cape	Limpopo	Mpumalanga	North West	Northern Cape
107,070	80,199	30,587	5,973	53,959	3,458	4,576	10,784	1,579
Daily Increase								
3,357	855	3,200	341	1,901	142	277	259	57

Positive cases worldwide were more than 13 million, while deaths were more than 574 000. The United States had the most cases in the world - more than 3.39 million, as well as the most deaths - more than 136 000.

CLINICAL, MEDICAL, SCIENTIFIC

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approval from the South African Health Products Regulatory Authority (SAHPRA). SAVE-P is led by businessman **Justin Corbett and Dr Greg Ash**. Corbett and Ash "**called upon local manufacturers they were familiar with the reliability and conformance of**" to join the **SAVE-P project**. "As a team, they evaluated designs that would be best suited to meet the requirements of respiratory therapy to treat Covid-19 patients, as well as ease-of-use for medical staff operating under highly stressful conditions with minimal training prior to using the device," the SAVE-P statement read. More than 90 volunteers worked on the project, according to SAVE-P. "SAVE-P has also been working alongside the **National Ventilator Project** team, led by (South African Radio Astronomy Observatory) SARAQ, for the development and performance testing of the device. The results of those tests and usability trials have proven the device to be highly effective and reliable," the statement said. "The design itself and method of manufacture have rendered it to be a truly affordable solution which can be produced quickly. SAVE-P recently became the first home grown non-invasive ventilator producer to receive a SAHPRA license to manufacture the devices."

On 13 July 2020, it was reported that [Russia became the first country to complete clinical trials of a COVID-19 vaccine](#) candidate after Sechenov University announced that it had "concluded the study". Despite numerous reports about completed clinical trials, it wasn't specified that only phase I of the clinical trials had been completed. This means that the safety and tolerability of the vaccine was tested on a small group of volunteers – in the case of this vaccine candidate, only 20 patients. On a positive note, however, none of the volunteers experienced negative side-effects and were ready to be released from hospital, where they had been quarantined.

[Gauteng has been divided into four medical clusters](#) led by central hospitals attached to medical schools to curb the spread of the coronavirus: Dr George Mukhari Academic Hospital, Steve Biko Academic Hospital, Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital and Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital. Health MEC Bandile Masuku said they were currently building a site that would accommodate 300 beds at the hospital for COVID-19 patients.

ECONOMICS, POLITICS, EDUCATION, ENVIRONMENT, SOCIAL

South Africa's biggest teachers' union, the [South African Democratic Teachers Union \(Sadt\) has resolved that schools should close](#) amid a peak in COVID-19 cases. Sadt's national executive committee held a meeting on Tuesday to pen a way forward as infections spiked in the country, affecting pupils and teachers. Reading the statement, the union's secretary general Mugwena Maluleke said its NEC resolved that schools close until the end of the peak. Maluleke said evidence on the ground showed that there was no effective teaching and learning at schools during the current conditions.

Two medical experts who serve on the Ministerial Advisory Committee (MAC), said government needs to come up with a more comprehensive plan on how to manage the increase in COVID-19 infections. They have expressed concern following government's renewed ban on alcohol sales and regulations on taxi capacity. This follows President Cyril Ramaphosa's address to the nation on Sunday night in which he announced taxis driving short distances could do so at 100% capacity provided windows were open, a nationwide sales ban on alcohol as well as a curfew. Speaking to News24, [Dr Angelique Coetzee, the president of the South African Medical Association \(SAMA\)](#) and member of the MAC, said the ban on alcohol would impact workers' livelihoods and a better plan needed to be created.

The [French embassy](#) has received a list of specific needs from SA's Department of Health, and the French medical and other agencies met to see how as France's COVID-19 pandemic subsides and South Africa's rises, France can donate medical supplies and equipment to the country. France is also discussing with its European Union partners the provision of more financial assistance to South Africa to help it manage the economic fallout of COVID-19 and the lockdown it has imposed to try to control its spread.

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COVID-19 EVENTS

SAHPRA WEBINAR: Health Products Registration: Central to the Fight Against COVID-19 - 16 July 2020

Dear SAMED Member

Please see below an invitation to participate in SAHPRA's webinar taking place tomorrow 16 July 2020.

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SOUTH AFRICAN
Health Products
Regulatory Authority



[Join us for a webinar panel discussion on:](#)
Health Products Registration: Central to the Fight Against COVID-19

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:

Dr. Sandile Buthelezi,
Director General NDoH



Dr. Bandile Masuku,
Gauteng Health MEC

TIME: Thursday, July 16, 2020 FROM 2–3:30 PM, SAST

REGISTER AT: shorturl.at/eovBM

PANELISTS:

Ms. Coceka Nogoduka,
Acting Chief Executive
Officer, SANAC Trust



Dr. Boitumelo Semete-Makokotlela,
CEO, SAHPRA



Ms. Portia Nkambule,
Chief Regulatory Officer,
SAHPRA



Ms. Steve Letsike,
Deputy Chairperson,
SANAC



Sibusiso Hlatjwako,
Advocacy and Partnership
Manager for South Africa, PATH

MODERATED BY:

Please use this link to register: bit.ly/2Z73nuN

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SAMED EVENT: RESTORING PATIENT CARE - THE RETURN TO PROCEDURE

SAMED has assembled speakers who can give diverse, practical advice on return to procedure during a jam-packed two-hour event which we invite you to attend virtually.

Business continuity, sustainability, coping with the ever-changing operating environment are top-of-mind considerations for senior leaders of MedTech organisations. We encourage the Managing Directors and CEOs of SAMED member companies to participate in the discussion.

In order for us to know how many participants to expect and for us better facilitate the discussion, we ask that you please register for the event by COB tomorrow 15 July 2020:

To register, [click here](#).

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Restoring Patient Care

THE RETURN TO PROCEDURE

PROGRAMME*

16:00 Opening
Avanthi Govender Bester, SAMED Chairperson

16:10 AdvaMed's Return to Procedure
Terry Chang & Don May, Advamed

16:30 Ensuring Supply for Continued Care
SMME – Norman Dlamini, Hennops Medical
Local Manufacturer – Joseph Ludorf, Malachite Medical
Multinational Devices – Peter Mehlae, Medtronic
Multinational IVDs – Ian Wakefield, Becton Dickinson

17:10 The Resumption of Elective Surgery
Dr Martin Brand, Federation of Surgeons of SA

17:20 Patient at the centre of care
Salomé Meyer, Cancer Alliance

17:30 Panel Discussion with Members
Avanthi Govender Bester, SAMED Chairperson

18:00 Close

*Subject to change

The global COVID-19 pandemic has changed the way we offer patient care. We must find innovative solutions for continued medical care in a safe environment.

Join us for a jam-packed panel session as we get insights and input on key considerations for re-establishing patient-centred care which embraces the full value of technology and builds a robust MedTech industry that is sustainable beyond the current need to return to procedure.

DATE: 16 JULY 2020
TIME: 16:00 – 18:00
PLACE: Virtual Teams

SAMED
South African Medical Technology Industry Association
Advancing innovation responsibly

JOIN VIA THE VIRTUAL LINK PROVIDED

EKA SHOW ME THE MONEY SESSION

Elsabe Klinck and Associates have upcoming session which aims to empower attendees to deal with medical scheme matters.

DATE: 17 JULY 2020

If you are unable to attend on Friday, licences for the recording and slides, as well as Q&A session, can be bought. Register [here](#).



Tanya Cohen



Nolitha Fakude



Dr Charles Mbekeni

WEBINAR

Functioning in the Age of COVID-19 | Leadership & Operational Lessons from Anglo American & Return2Work

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)



DATE

Tuesday 21st July



TIME

10am – 11.30am

Join Nolitha Fakude, Chairperson of Anglo American's Management Board in South Africa, Dr Charles Mbekeni, Lead for Health for Anglo American in South Africa, and Tanya Cohen from Return2Work on Tuesday 21st July at 10am – 11.30am where they will share leadership lessons and practical tips for how business can adapt to operate safely in "the age of Covid-19".

COVID-19 will be an enduring reality for all SA businesses and citizens for the foreseeable future. Every South African business will need to learn how to "function in the age of COVID-19" if it is to survive. Over the last few months, Anglo American has adapted to this reality, and changed how over 50,000 South African employees and contractors work. Their approach goes beyond their own workspaces to include a response that collaborates extensively with local government and that looks into the communities where their employees reside to try and provide safe environments.

This Business for SA webcast will share what Anglo American did through: employee health and hygiene controls, de-densifying the workplace, shift and behaviour change, and staff/community support and much more which allowed it to restart operations. We will also explain the free practical tools and guidance available to businesses from Return2Work and how it links to the Solidarity Fund's behavioural change campaign.

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IHRM: Webinar Update on the Impact of COVID-19

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SAMED is the voice of the South African medical technology industry. The not-for-gain-association 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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