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COVID-19 news from SAMED, Government and Abroad.

WESTERN CAPE PROCUREMENT DISCLOSURE REPORT

In line with the requirements of section 217 of the South African Constitution, the Western Cape Government is committed to transparency in public procurement. In their continued commitment towards clean governance and transparency, the Provincial Treasury is pleased to publish the first edition of the Procurement Disclosure Report.

This report details all personal protective equipment (PPE) procurement and expenditure in the Western Cape from 1 April 2020 until 30 June 2020. Going forward an automated report will be made available on the Provincial Treasury website on a monthly basis.

Download the report [here](#).

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CALL FOR PROPOSALS: COVID-19 RELATED PRODUCTS

SUPPORT FOR INNOVATIVE PROJECTS FOR THE PRODUCTION OF COVID-19 RELEVANT MEDICAL AND PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS

The Southern African Development Community has put out a call for proposals for COVID-19 related MedTech and pharmaceutical products. The call supports innovative projects which increase local production in SADC of high-quality products with increased need in relation to the prevention, diagnosis or treatment of COVID-19. This includes but is not limited to:

- PPE including disposable medical masks, N95/ FFP2 masks, face shields, and other essential related items
- Ventilator projects
- Disinfectants and sanitizers
- Diagnostics
- Pharmaceuticals and medicines, which are specifically for COVID-19 treatment, prevention and management

Kindly note: Interested parties that wish to be considered for grants under this call should complete and send the SIPS CMPP Call Application Form and the Call Declaration of Eligibility and Commitment together with all supporting documents as described in the Call Document Check List to GIZ at the following address, no later than the deadline of 24 August 2020: SIPS-C19@giz.de

For more information and access to the forms, [click here](#).

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COVID-19 DEVELOPMENTS

TRACKING THE PANDEMIC



KZN expected to peak in coming weeks - Zweli Mkhize

- KwaZulu-Natal is set to have more Covid-19 infections than the Western Cape during its peak, Health Minister Zweli Mkhize said on Thursday. "KwaZulu-Natal has moved higher than Western Cape had during their peak. In other words KZN will peak higher than Western Cape," he told media in Durban.
- "The trends of an early surge in the Western Cape and peak and plateau is confirmed as a reality. Numbers are increasing in KZN. The surge came about two weeks after the Eastern Cape and six or so behind the Western Cape. We must focus on KZN." He said that while KZN numbers were the third highest in the country, this could change in the coming weeks.
- "During next week, KZN will have more positive patients than what the Western Cape had. In some of the [recent] days in KZN, there are more positive cases per 24 hours than Gauteng. The province needs to be ready. KZN is on course for a surge."

Minister of Health Zweli Mkhize has expressed careful optimism about downward trends in new daily infection rates in South Africa

- But lockdown restrictions are likely to remain to prevent a second, bigger surge. Mkhize said COVID-19 tests will be done for all sudden deaths and a team of experts from the World Health Organisation (WHO) will arrive in South Africa on Wednesday (5 August) to assist the Department of Health.
- In their latest available update, the [Medical Research Council](#) stated that the all-cause national number of deaths for people older than one per week has risen to 16,223 and is 63% higher than the predicted number based on historical data in the week ending 21 July 2020.
- "When compared with the predicted numbers, there was an excess of 6,256 deaths in the latest week," their findings state. The number of deaths from natural causes is also significantly higher than the predicted number. According to MRC statistics in the period 6 May – 21 July 2020, there has been an excess of 22,279 deaths from natural causes.
- Mkhize said that there are now 521,318 confirmed cases of coronavirus infections in South Africa but added that it looks like the country might be over the peak of the outbreak by the end of August.

ECONOMY, POLITICS, ENVIRONMENT, SOCIETY

'Thieves were waiting at the door': Mboweni ends emergency PPE procurement

- National Treasury has ended the emergency procurement process for Personal Protective Equipment and protective clothing, saying it's back to business as usual for government suppliers.
- Going forward, full details of companies who have been awarded tenders will also be published to increase transparency. The emergency procurement of PPEs and protective clothing had ended because demand and supply are no longer an issue.
- "We have boosted local production of face shields, of masks. All of that is now in place after a few months of challenges that we had in terms of how companies in South Africa can begin to take advantage of the opportunity that is here."
- He said anti-corruption measures needed to be put in place, as well as outside-the-box thinking to ensure that procurement is "fraud-proof".

Cabinet 'disappointed' by COVID-19 related corruption

- Cabinet is disappointed by "recent reports of acts of corruption and theft of the much-needed resources that government has allocated to save lives and livelihoods during the COVID-19 pandemic".
- This is according to a statement on Wednesday's Cabinet meeting, delivered by Justice and Correctional Services Minister Ronald Lamola on Thursday.

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- Cabinet has called on all public institutions to uphold the highest standards of integrity and accountability, and fulfil their mandates effectively and efficiently."
- He claimed Cabinet remained committed to building a "capable, ethical and developmental state" and it supported President Cyril Ramaphosa's recent call that law enforcement agencies must arrest the corrupt, whoever they were, and recover the loot.

Mkhize: SA not ready to lift ban on sales of tobacco, alcohol yet

- Health Minister Zweli Mkhize said that the country was not ready to lift the ban on the sale of alcohol and cigarettes. Mkhize is touring KwaZulu-Natal health facilities ahead of an expected surge in COVID-19 infections.
- He said that while pressure on hospitals had been reduced and the recovery rate was now above 70%, more work still needed to be done before alcohol and cigarette sales were allowed again.
- "Our position is very simple. When we see that the numbers are improving and the need and pressure for beds is not so threatening to the lives of our people, we'll reconsider this. We haven't come to that point yet."

Back to the future: Jo'burg mall opens drive-in cinema and diner, pandemic-style

- The Pineslopes Boulevard shopping centre in Fourways, Johannesburg, has added an outdoor big screen in its parking lot as an addition to the recently launched roadhouse-style Drive-in Diner.
- The project is a collaborative initiative aimed at assisting restaurants affected by the decline in sit-down dining due to COVID-19. It adheres to strict social distancing protocols as parking bays are staggered and wait staff are equipped with masks and hand sanitiser.
- The addition of outdoor movie screenings means customers can now also enjoy "the nostalgic ambience" of a drive-in movie theatre experience as an additional accompaniment to their meals.



COVID-19 shows us yet again: Don't mess with Mother Nature – Daily Maverick opinion

- With the entry of SARS-CoV-2 – the virus responsible for COVID-19 – into the human population and the rapid spread of the pandemic, the general public as well as the medical and broader scientific communities have been bombarded by an extraordinary number of articles in scientific journals and on pre-publication servers, as well as in popular media, including social media. This has led to a change in publication norms, with expedited publications reaching the public within days of receipt and preprint servers being close to overwhelmed.
- While this has allowed for worldwide dissemination and research efficiency on an unprecedented scale, it is no surprise that some questionable research has slipped through. As shown in the past, a single "bad" paper can overshadow many more legitimate ones. To combat this, many [preprint servers](#) and publishers now have filters – but is it too little, too late?
- Many conspiracy theories regarding the origins of SARS-CoV-2 have taken hold, partly due to the propagation of these theories by respected professionals in both the scientific and medical fields.
- We are aiming with this article to debunk some common misconceptions and misrepresentation by summarising peer-reviewed, credible research showing that this novel virus has a "natural" origin and the unfortunate ability to spread further and faster than previous coronaviruses. Please see link for more detail

What type of SA households have the highest COVID-19 vulnerability?

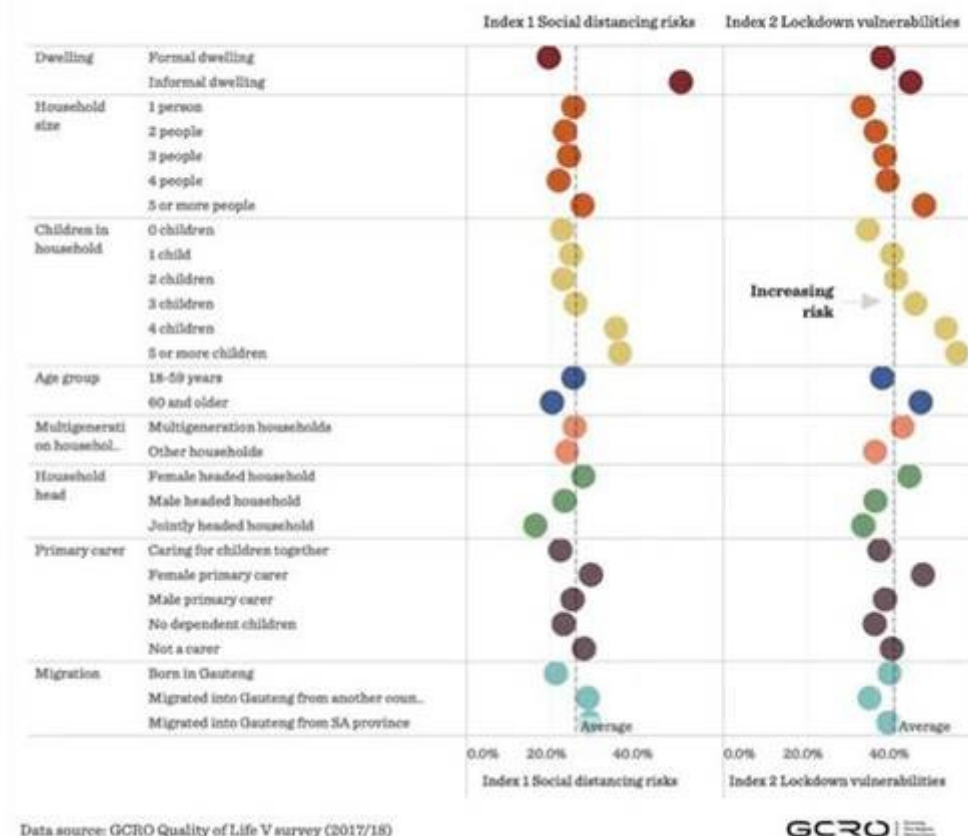
- *Gauteng City-Region Observatory analysis* draws on Gauteng City-Region Observatory's [Quality of Life V](#) (2017/18) survey data.
- Vulnerability in the context of COVID-19 is not distributed evenly across all people and households. Globally, a range of factors – including race and social and economic status – have already been [shown to shape vulnerability](#).
- In the South African context, household composition and structure are already known to be linked to socio-economic vulnerability. They are likely to be relevant in the context of COVID-19 too. In

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need to consider variations in forms and distribution of risk. For example, households in informal dwellings are more likely to have poor access to water and sanitation but they are less likely to have members with pre-existing health conditions.

- Female-headed households, larger households, and those where respondents are females with primary care-giving responsibilities have higher levels of risk for both transmission and the impacts of the lockdown. Women are more likely to live in larger households, so these patterns seem likely to place them at greater risk of transmission within the household.
- Understanding how vulnerability shifts alongside household structure and attributes is crucial to delivering targeted support.

COVID-19 RISK INDICES AND HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS IN GAUTENG


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