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COVID-19 news from SAMED, Government and Abroad.

## WHO COVID-19 TARGET PRODUCT PROFILES

WHO has published Draft Target Product Profiles (TPP) for priority COVID-19 diagnostics. These TPPs describe the desirable and minimally acceptable profiles for four tests. WHO has asked for comments on these TPPs through electronic surveys available at the links below until 19 August 2020:

- Point of care test for suspected COVID-19 cases and their close contacts to diagnose acute SARS-CoV-2 infection in areas where reference assay testing is unavailable, or turnaround times obviate clinical utility: <https://extranet.who.int/dataformv3/index.php/843677?lang=en>
- Test for diagnosis or confirmation of acute or subacute SARS-CoV-2 infection, suitable for low or high-volume needs: <https://extranet.who.int/dataformv3/index.php/667894?lang=en>
- Point of care test for prior infection with SARS-CoV-2: <https://extranet.who.int/dataformv3/index.php/841211?lang=en>
- Test for prior infection with SARS-CoV-2 for moderate to high volume needs: <https://extranet.who.int/dataformv3/index.php/243556?lang=en>

Should you have difficulties submitting comments, please contact [cunninghamj@who.int](mailto:cunninghamj@who.int)  
View the published draft [here](#).

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## ENSAFRICA" AFRICAN COMPETITION LAW ROUNDUP

ENSAfrica has published the second issue of the African competition law roundup summarising the latest competition regulatory news and developments across Africa.

Download the roundup [here](#).

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## COVID-19 DEVELOPMENTS

### TRACKING THE PANDEMIC

Cumulative Cases <b>566,109</b>	Daily change <b>+ 2,511</b>	Cumulative Fatalities <b>10,751</b>	Mortality Rate <b>1.90%</b>	Total Recoveries <b>426,125</b>
Active Cases <b>129,233</b>	Relative to Population <b>0.9632%</b>	Relative to Population <b>0.018292%</b>	Total Tests <b>3,278,977</b>	

Gauteng	Western Cape	KwaZulu Natal	Free State	Eastern Cape	Limpopo	Mpumalanga	North West	Northern Cape
194,093	100,316	100,494	29,209	82,715	10,807	19,533	22,031	6,861
Daily Increase								
532	103	1,108	300	137	96	78	98	59

An observation: a week ago, on **5 August 2020**, these were the daily infection increases in the provinces (with a cumulative daily change of +4456):

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Western Cape Department head Keith Cloete says the provincial health department COVID-19 [numbers are stabilising](#), and in some regions like Khayelitsha, cases are decreasing. In Khayelitsha, 73 cases have been recorded over the past seven days. This shows a significant drop in known infections, as compared to early July, when Khayelitsha saw in excess of 600 cases a week.

Similarly, as the rate of COVID-19 [infections in Gauteng continues to fall](#), the province's focus will now shift to its plans to help the recovery of SA's economic hub, premier David Makhura has said. Makhura said Gauteng's hospitals are coping and that the amount of daily admissions is vastly lower than in June and July.

### COVID-19 VACCINES

A Russian healthcare regulator has become [the first globally to approve a vaccine against Covid-19, President Vladimir Putin](#) announced on Tuesday. "As far as I know, a vaccine against a new coronavirus infection has been registered this morning, for the first time in the world," he said at a meeting with members of the government, RIA Novosti reported. Medical workers and teachers would be the first to be vaccinated, according to Russia's health minister, Mikhail Murashko. [Putin added that one of his daughters has already received the vaccination](#), and said she has been feeling well after suffering a fever for a couple of days. However, the development has been met with international scepticism as the vaccine has yet to complete clinical trials. The vaccine, named Sputnik V, is a non-replicating viral vector (the same kind of technology used in the SA vaccine trial) and was developed by the Gamaleya Institute in Moscow. The vaccine was tested in small, early clinical trials and was given to scientists who further developed it, as well as to 50 members of the Russian military and a handful of other volunteers, the [Washington Post reports](#). It has not completed phase 3 trials.

A day before Putin's announcement, a consortium of pharmaceutical and healthcare-research companies publicly called on the Russian health ministry to postpone the registration of the vaccine until phase-3 clinical testing has been completed. In a letter cited by RBK, the **Association of Clinical Trials Organisation - which consists of international companies like Bayer, AstraZeneca, and Novartis** - said that Gamaleya had involved fewer than 100 people in its initial trials, even though most researchers test on several thousand people before rolling out a vaccine for mass production.

[Professor Glenda Gray, who is the CEO and president of the South African Medical Research Council, is participating in a COVID-19 vaccine study](#) to show anti-vaxxers that it's safe. One of more than 1 000 participants to be enrolled in the vaccine trial so far, Professor Gray was screened and vaccinated at UCT's Lung Institute. Since June, South Africa has been collaborating with the UK's Oxford University in the randomised control study that's also running in Britain and Brazil. SA has five sites screening and enrolling participants in the ChAdOx1 nCoV-19 randomised control trial. "Normally I am at the other end of the needle. For me, it was very important to be a participant. To see what it's like, have them rake your blood, get the injection. It's critical that we show that COVID-19 affects everybody."

[Although none of the coronavirus vaccines under development has proved its efficacy yet in clinical trials, at least 5.7 billion doses have been pre-ordered around the world](#). First shipments of a COVID-19 vaccine created by Western laboratories have often been snapped up by the United States. Five vaccines - three Western and two Chinese - are in Phase 3 efficacy trials involving thousands of people. The United States has allocated funding to more companies than other nation in the hope that one of them will come up with the vaccine to counter the highly contagious virus. So far, the US government has handed out at a total of least 9.4 billion dollars to seven vaccine developers and signed manufacturing contracts with five of them to provide 700 million doses. The companies involved are: Johnson & Johnson, Moderna, Oxford/AztraZeneca, Novavax, Pfizer/BioNTech, Sanofi/GSK, Merck Sharp and Dohme.

### ECONOMY, POLITICS, ENVIRONMENT, SOCIETY

Serious [trade imbalances between South Africa and the European Union](#) (EU) are creating unintended consequences due to the continued prohibition on the sale of alcohol in SA, Sibani Mngadi, spokesperson for the SA alcohol industry, has warned. South Africa is the prime export destination for European spirits in Africa, with exports amounting to 255 million euros in 2019. "With progress being made in the health response to the pandemic, it is critical for the government to further limit the negative impact of the ban in the local economy and on our international obligations as a country. We are calling for government to provide clarity in terms of timing of lifting the ban." Mngadi's comments come against the backdrop of an alarm raised from within the EU itself, warning that the continued coronavirus ban on the sale of alcohol products in South Africa is creating "incredible risks" between the country and its biggest trade partner, the European Union.

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## COVID-19 EVENTS

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COVID-19 has put a strain on the 2030 agenda and closing the health financing gap. With the world coming to a standstill, 2020 is a year to reflect and re-prioritize financing mechanisms and models to improve healthcare access and equity. This includes the challenges that organizations and entrepreneurs are facing when accessing capital and markets. To bridge this gap there is a need for public-private partnerships to promote innovative financing mechanisms, such as blended finance, pooled finance or pay for performance, that can scale and improve outcomes.



## Partnerships for COVID-19 in Africa

14th August 2020  
4.00pm - 5.30pm EAT



### Financing Models

				
<b>Moderator</b>	<b>Keynote Speaker</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Speaker</b>
<p><b>Ms. Zola Mtshiya</b> Director Africa Healthcare Federation</p>	<p><b>Prof. Khama Rogo</b> Founder Africa Institute for Health Transformation</p>	<p><b>Dr. Justine Coulson</b> Deputy Regional Director East &amp; Southern Africa UNFPA</p>	<p><b>Dr. Philippe Francois</b> Global Head of Life&amp;Health International Reinsurance Business Development AXA</p>	<p><b>Ms. Oluranti Doherty</b> Head Export Development African Export-Import Bank</p>

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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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