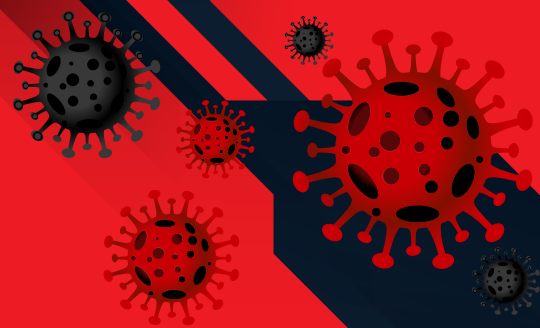




COVID-19 BULLETIN

(Phase Based Approach to the National Lockdown)



Introduction

On Thursday, the 26th March 2020, the country went into a 21-Days national lockdown as announced by the President of the Republic of South Africa on the 23rd March 2020 in an effort of flattening the curve of the coronavirus in the country.

National Lockdown

Having announced the national lockdown, government immediately made provisions for different regulations consistent with Disaster Management Act of 2002. The announcement by the State President directed amongst others that all South Africans must stay home for the period as announced and exempted categories of workers to performing their work during the lockdown such as health workers in the public and private sectors, emergency personnel, those in security services – such as the police, traffic officers, military medical personnel, soldiers – and other persons necessary for the response to the pandemic. Further included those involved in the production, distribution and supply of food and basic goods, essential banking services, the maintenance of power, water and telecommunications services, laboratory services, and the provision of medical and hygiene products.

The announcement went on to inform the nation that individuals shall not be allowed to leave their homes except under strictly controlled circumstances, such as to seek medical care, buy food, medicine and other supplies or collect a social grant.

Sites were also identified for quarantine and self-isolation for people who cannot self-isolate at home. All shops and businesses were closed except for pharmacies, laboratories, banks, essential financial and payment services, including the JSE, supermarkets, petrol stations and health care providers. Companies that are essential to the production and transportation of food, basic goods and medical supplies remained open.

A massive screening, testing, contact tracing public drive was realised during the lockdown and healthcare workers have been in the frontline of the fight against this deadly virus with community healthcare workers expanding screening and testing where people live, focusing first on high density and high-risk areas.

After scientific analysis and advices from health experts and other experts on the need to control and manage the spread of the virus, on the evening of the 9th April 2020 the President announced an extension to the national lockdown saying that the lockdown has helped in the fight against COVID-19, an additional two weeks is needed to continue efforts to reduce new infections. The national lockdown has been able to curb and flatten the curve of the coronavirus and this can be attributed to the rapid response measures that have been put in place to ensure that South Africa curbs the spread of the virus, said President Cyril Ramaphosa.

Phased Based Approach

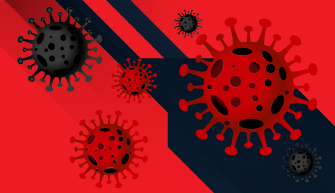
The national lockdown has had a drastic impact to socio-economic aspect of many South Africans as a result the government announced a social-relief programme to cushion the damage caused by this virus on socio-economic front in the country.

As a matter of fact the social-relief as announced would not be sustainable for the long term prospects and based on advice of the National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD) and the National Command Council on Coronavirus, government decided to gradually lift the national lockdown with a phased approach based on scientific and medical advice to allow economic activity to resume whilst fighting the virus with effect from the 1st May 2020.



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(Phase Based Approach to the National Lockdown)



The phase-based approach announced is geared towards a gradual and phased recovery of economic activity and this will be implemented through a risk adjusted strategy entails a cautious approach to the easing the restrictions of the national lockdown. The phase-based approach will be conducted in five phased levels as follows:

- Level 5:** means that drastic measures are required to contain the spread of the virus to save lives, this refers to the current national lockdown.
- Level 4:** means that some activity can be allowed to resume subject to extreme precautions required to limit community transmission and outbreaks.
- Level 3:** involves the easing of some restrictions including on work and social activities, to address a high risk of transmission.
- Level 2:** involves the further easing of restrictions but the maintenance of physical distancing and restrictions on some leisure and social activities to prevent a resurgence of the virus.
- Level 1:** means that most normal activity can resume with precautions and health guidelines followed at all times.

Government has indicated that the implementation of the phase (levels) based approach is to ensure that the response to the pandemic can be precise and targeted as possible to contain the spread of the coronavirus whilst resuming economic activity.

Easing National Lockdown to Phase Based Level 4 Approach

With the easing of the national lockdown, as from the 01st May 2020, South Africa will move into level 4 of the phase based approach in terms of the risk approach to the coronavirus. In terms of the risk approach level 4 entails moderate to high virus spread and with moderate readiness to resume economic activity.

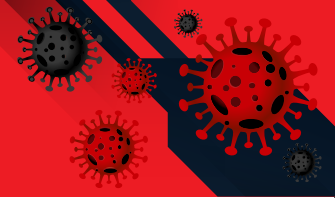
Economic Sectors to operate at Level 4

- As per the regulations of the current national lockdown, all essential services, plus a limited number of sectors with a low rate of transmission and high economic or social value will be permitted to operate at the level 4 phase of the lockdown. These sectors include amongst others:
 - Agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing
 - Electricity, gas and water supply
 - Manufacturing
 - Construction and related services including tradespeople
 - Wholesale and retail trade, covering stores, spaza shops, eCommerce and informal traders
 - Information and communication services
 - Media and entertainment services
 - Financial and business services
 - Accommodation - for quarantine and essential services
 - Food service activities - Restaurants only for food delivery services (9am-8pm) and subject to curfew (no sit down or pick-up allowed)
 - Transport, storage and communication services
 - Mining and quarrying
 - Repair and related emergency services
 - Supply Chains
 - Public administration, government services and other arms of the state



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(Phase Based Approach to the National Lockdown)



- Health, social and personal services
- Education services

Transport Restrictions at Level 4

In terms of level 4 phase based approach with regards to transport restrictions - bus services, taxi services, e-hailing and private motor vehicles to operate at all times of the day, with limitations on vehicle capacity and stringent hygiene requirements.

Personal Movement at Level 4

In terms of level 4 phase based approach with regards to personal movement the following regulations will apply:

- Interprovincial travel is not permitted except to return to work with proof of employment, in exceptional circumstances such as funerals (with approval) or essential services.
- Stay at home, other than essential travel for work and to purchase essential goods.
- No recreational travel or to meet friends or family.
- People can exercise under strict public health conditions, subject to directions, which will exclude organised activities, recreational facilities, and gyms
- Mandatory use of cloth masks (including home-made ones to cover nose and mask) and ensure hand hygiene when in public and at workplace.
- Emergencies for medical reasons.
- Those who have an exemption to travel for funerals
- South Africans returning home and foreign nationals leaving South Africa
- Elderly and persons with co-morbidities are encouraged to self-isolate and only leave home for exceptional reasons.
- Social distancing (2m away from other persons) to be applied in public when, shopping, visiting health facilities (pharmacies, clinics etc)
- Social distancing when using public and private transport, as per transport guidelines
- All public gatherings are prohibited
- Stores to ensure that there is temperature screening of patrons, hand sanitisers available and measures to facilitate social distancing. Where the number of customers cannot be accommodated at once then measures such a ticket system and defined limit of time in the store per customer should be implemented instead of the physical queuing of customers.
- Curfews will be implemented between 8pm and 5am

In order to emerge victorious against this pandemic, it requires everyone to strictly adhere to all the Phase Based Approach Level 4 of the national lockdown and also COVID-19 health and safety protocols which must be adhered to at all material times including practising social distancing, hand washing, and practising proper hygiene amongst others.