

COVID-19 cases shoot up, Gauteng to emerge as epicenter

South Africa's COVID-19 cases are on a sharp and steady increase with 6 130 new cases reported on Monday, bringing the total number to 144 264. A further 73 COVID-19 related deaths were reported, bringing the total to 2 529. Of the 73 new deaths reported, 1 was from Mpumalanga, 5 from Limpopo, 2 from North West, 6 from Gauteng, 10 from the Eastern Cape, 6 from KwaZulu-Natal and 43 from the Western Cape.

"The numbers are picking up and the surge is on the way. Particularly in Gauteng, the numbers are locking up faster than anticipated. "Western Cape started surging numbers very quickly. Western Cape in June went up by 40 000 people, but in Gauteng as of last night we are close to 3 000 per day," said Health Minister Zweli Mkhize.

With the rapid increase in infections posing a threat of overwhelming health services,

Mkhize pleaded with citizens to observe health protocols and maintain social distancing. "The problem is too many people getting sick at the same time. We want to plead to people to use the masks, hand washing, social distancing. "During the month of July we are going to see larger numbers getting infected, going into August. We are hoping to manage the situation during this time," said the Minister.

While the numbers continue to surge, Mkhize said no decision has been taken to have another lockdown. "There has not been any decision taken to have another lockdown and certainly the National

Coronavirus Command Council does not take lightly a decision of that nature. "There may be a need in some areas for restrictions. It may not be national but localised. But no such decision has been taken as yet," he said.

Dumped COVID-19 test kits

On Monday, reports surfaced of COVID-19 test samples found dumped in Mdantsane in East London. Following the discovery of the dumped samples, the Health Minister announced the suspension of the courier company responsible.

"The tests lying on the road was disappointing. It seems to be the courier

company. We've asked these services to be suspended. We cannot have this type of negligence. We are grateful to those who spotted and reported this matter," said the Minister.

Officials deployed to E Cape

Noting the challenges of staffing and capacity in the Eastern Cape, the Health Department has deployed officials to the province to boost capacity. "Eastern Cape

has a number of challenges, part of it is to strengthen their management capacity. We have deployed officials to assist. I have seen improvements in the past six weeks. We do know there are challenges of staffing.

"We've sent a

number of people to the Eastern Cape. We are sending reinforcements to the province and keep going there to inspect the progress. We are seeing changes and are monitoring the situation," said the Minister.

Continue with treatment

On people with comorbidities, Mkhize urged people with comorbidities to continue taking their medication and encouraged them try to get a multi month supply of medication.

"Where possible they should work from home, if not to seclude themselves at work," he said.

– SAnews.gov.za

The problem is too many people getting sick at the same time



Health Minister, Dr. Zweli Mkhize.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

ADJUSTMENT BUDGET 2019/2020

Notice is hereby given that in terms of Section 21A of the Municipal Systems Act, No 32 of 2000, Section 28 of the Municipal Finance Management Act, No 56 of 2003 and Regulation 21 – 27 of the Municipal Budget and Reporting Regulations, the Adjustment Budget for 2019/2020 financial year was approved at the Council meeting on 15 June 2020 and is available for inspection at the Financial Services Department, Civic Centre, Sasolburg (Fichardt Street, Sasolburg) during office hours, and it is available on the municipal website: www.metsimaholo.gov.za

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Safety first as more grades reopen on 6 July

The Department of Basic Education (DBE) has once again put a spotlight on safety in schools as the other grades prepare to go back to class on 6 July. Schools have been closed since the lockdown was instituted in March to curb the spread of Coronavirus. Schools partially reopened on 8 June for grades 7 and 12. However, DBE has since issued a set of directions, signed by Minister Angie Motshekga, to provide clarity and guidance on a variety of matters affecting the sector. The guidelines also confirm 6 July 2020 as the date for reopening for pre-Grade R, Grade R, Grade 1, Grade 2, Grade 3, Grade 6, Grade 10 and Grade 11 learners. Schools of skills' years 2 and 3 will also resume classes. Schools for learners with severe intellectual disabilities (SID) will also resume. Schools for learners with severe and profound intellectual disabilities (LSPID), year 1 to 3, and autistic learners junior group (below 13 years) and final year (18 years and above) will also resume. According to the department, the institutes of learning may be permitted to deviate from the phased return to school in respect of specific grades or

dates, provided that they comply with the minimum health, safety and social distancing measures and requirements on COVID-19.

The department said they would continue to monitor the return of learners to school, with a sharp focus on safety for all. "We will continue to work hard in schools to make sure that we protect our learners, teachers and employees within schools. It is important to work together to ensure that we beat the virus," Motshekga said. The Minister said the department is doing everything in its power to ensure all schools are COVID-19 compliant before they receive learners.

"What is also important is to ensure that even during schools hours and beyond, we stick to the basic requirements of wearing a mask, sanitising, washing hands and physical distancing," the Minister stressed. She urged members of the community to desist from visiting schools, as this also increases the risk for more infections. The department is providing support for 204 learners and hostel assistants, who have contracted Coronavirus at Makaula Senior Secondary School in KwaBhaca, Eastern Cape. – SAnews.gov.za