



PRETORIA

Private Bag X828, PRETORIA, 0001, 28th Floor, Civitas Building, Cnr Thabo Sehume and Struben Street, PRETORIA, 0001

Tel: (012) 395 8086 Fax: (012) 395 9165

CAPE TOWN

Private Bag X9070, CAPE TOWN, 8000, Room 413, 120 Plein Street, CAPE TOWN, 8000 Tel: (021) 466 7262 Fax: (021) 465 1575

Notes: Minister of Health Media Briefing

10 April 2020

As at today, the total number of confirmed COVID-19 cases is 2003.

TOTAL NUMBER OF TESTS CONDUCTED : 73 028

TOTAL CONFIRMED CASES : 2003

TOTAL DEATHS : 24

TOTAL RECOVERIES : 410

The provincial breakdown is as follows:

PROVINCE	CONFIRMED COVID-19 CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	TOTAL RECOVERIES
GAUTENG	801	3	157
WESTERN CAPE	541	6	152
KWAZULU – NATAL	412	12	15
FREE STATE	94	3	61
EASTERN CAPE	68	0	3
LIMPOPO	24	0	13
MPUMALANGA	20	0	6
NORTH WEST	18	0	3
NORTHERN CAPE	15	0	0
UNALLOCATED	10	0	0

MASKS

Face-masks are recommended as an addition to hand-washing and social distancing. The face mask should never be promoted as our primary prevention strategy and should never be promoted separately from hand-washing and social distancing.

To ensure that N95 masks and surgical masks are secured for workers who really need them, we would like to recommend that the cloth face-mask should be used by the general population.

We are satisfied that there is sufficient scientific evidence to show that the cloth face mask significantly reduces the amount of virus that can be emitted.

It is nevertheless important to observe basic rules of the use of cloth face masks to ensure that they are safe for use:

- The face-mask must cover the nose and mouth completely.
- Face-masks should not be lowered when speaking, coughing or sneezing.
- Face-masks should never be touched – fidgeting with the mask repeatedly is strongly discouraged as it is important to avoid touching the face with hands. The inner side of the mask should not be touched by hands.
- Wash hands before and after donning or removing the face-mask.
- Wash cloth face-masks with warm soapy water and iron when dry. Ironing assists with decontamination
- Change your cloth face mask if it is wet or visibly soiled
- Each person will need to have at least 2 face-masks so that one face-mask is available when the other is being washed.

Dr Zwelini Mkhize
Minister of Health

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