



MINISTRY  
HEALTH  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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 Plain Street, CAPE TOWN, 8000 Tel: (021) 466 7262 Fax: (021) 465 1575

## Notes from the Media Briefing

### 21 April 2020

As at today, the total number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in South Africa is 3 465.

The total number of tests conducted to date is 126 937, of which 5427 were done in the last 24 hours.

The provincial breakdown is as follows:

GAUTENG	1199
WESTERN CAPE	1010
KWAZULU – NATAL	671
EASTERN CAPE	345
FREE STATE	106
LIMPOPO	27
NORTH WEST	24
MPUMALANGA	24
NORTHERN CAPE	16
UNALLOCATED	43

### EASTERN CAPE VISIT

Today we visited the Eastern Cape where we have observed a rapid rise in the number of confirmed cases and this raised a concern. The biggest risk of spread that has been identified is the cultural practices occurring at funerals. We engaged with the provincial executive led by Premier Oscar Mabuyane together with the Health MEC Sindiswa Gomba.

We immediately took a decision to urgently deploy more medical experts including senior epidemiologists, analysts and field consultants to reinforce the provincial team, led by Dr Kerrigan McCarthy from the NICD. We are also pleased that the World Health Organisation has also assisted us by deploying more clinicians and experts.

We have also deployed senior officials from the National Department of Health to do a proper audit of the available personal protective equipment and other requirements. This is to ensure the safety and adequate protection of our health workers who are at the forefront. We reiterate that no health worker should be exposed to the risk of infection. They must all be adequately trained on the infection prevention and control (IPC) and be protected at all times.

Dr Zwelini Mkhize  
Minister of Health

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