



Government has declared the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) a national disaster, which empowers the state to release available resources in a coordinated manner to fight the spread of the virus.

Government is also implementing additional measures as part of its Integrated National Response Plan, approved by Cabinet. It includes drastic measures to manage the disease, protect the people of our country and reduce the impact of the virus on our society and on our economy.

- Travel restrictions are imposed on foreign nationals travelling from high-risk countries such as Italy, Iran, South Korea, Spain, Germany, United States, United Kingdom and China. All travellers who have entered South Africa from high-risk countries since mid-February will be required to present themselves for testing.
- South African citizens are advised to refrain from all forms of travel to or through the European Union, United States, United Kingdom and other identified high-risk countries such as China, Iran and South Korea. South African citizens returning from high-risk countries will be subjected to testing and quarantine on their return.
- Gatherings of more than 100 people are prohibited as a precaution to curb the transmission of the virus. Where small gatherings are unavoidable, organisers need to put in place stringent measures of prevention and control.
- All mass celebrations of upcoming National Days as well as government events are cancelled.
- Public schools will close on Wednesday 18 March 2020 and re-open after the Eastern Weekend. Learning and teaching time lost in this period will be made up by shortening the mid-year vacation.
- Government is working closely with schools and public institutions such as Parliament, prisons, police and the military to intensify hygiene control.

- Surveillance and testing systems are being strengthened at hospitals and government is partnering with the private sector to develop a tracing, tracking and monitoring system for all those affected by the coronavirus.

Government calls on all businesses including mining, retail, banking, farming to ensure that they take all necessary measures to intensify hygiene control. The management of malls, entertainment centres and other places frequented by large numbers of people should also bolster their hygiene control.

Citizens are urged to remain calm and continue to practice hygiene and preventative behaviour by washing their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. South Africans are encouraged to minimise physical contact with other people and practise social distancing.

Seek medical care immediately after developing symptoms such as fever, cough, shortness of breath and breathing difficulties. If you think you might have contracted the virus, you can call the National Institute of Communicable Diseases NICD helpline (0800 029 999) and you will be advised on possible testing facilities.