

**16 APRIL 2020**

## **IPASA commits to continuing supply of chronic medicines during COVID-19 pandemic**

The Innovative Pharmaceutical Association South Africa (IPASA), representing 26 innovative research-based pharmaceutical companies, confirms its commitment to continuing the supply of medicines to people living with chronic diseases during the Covid-19 pandemic 21-day lockdown.

The outbreak of the virus has shown that the most at-risk population are people over 65 years of age, with underlying conditions, including cardiovascular disease, chronic lung disease, immunosuppression, diabetes, chronic liver or kidney disease and more.

IPASA and its members confirm that while health professionals and researchers worldwide work tirelessly to develop a vaccine for Covid-19, they are committed to ensuring that those with underlying conditions receive sufficient supply of much-needed medications.

IPASA and its members remain committed and are sensitive to critical factors such as:

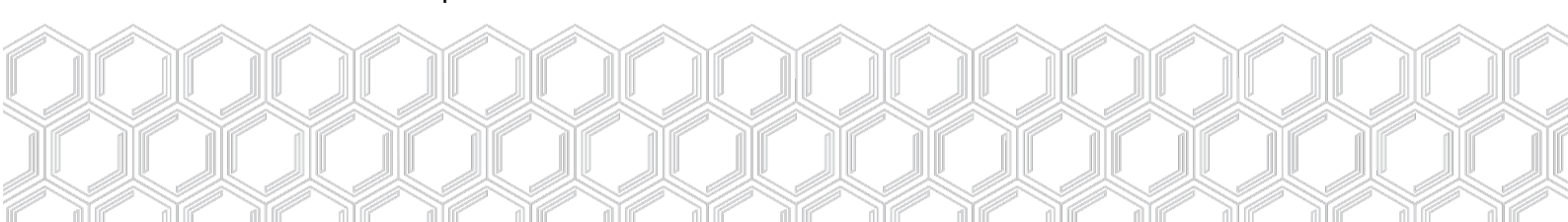
- Safeguarding access to critical medicines
- Ensuring equitable access to critical medicines
- Contributing assets and expertise to help lessen the impact of Covid-19. This includes essays, compounds & modelling and simulation expertise
- Contributing to the collecting of data to support decision-making

“Our hearts go out to those who have been affected by the virus and have lost loved ones during this time. This includes the frontline medical workers who have given of themselves, to help others during this health crisis. Amidst all this, we want to assure people living with chronic conditions that we will continue to provide the medication needed to manage their conditions during the lockdown and beyond.” says Dr Konji Sebati, CEO of IPASA.

“I would like to once again commend the Minister of Health, Dr. Zweli Mkhize’s incredible leadership on this National health crisis, and for surrounding himself with such brilliant scientists” continues Dr. Sebati

The healthcare sector is collaborating with various stakeholders to provide solutions and flatten the curve to keep South Africans safe. Furthermore, it has become more apparent that it is everyone’s responsibility to practice the highest standards of hygiene and practice social distancing while the industry, academia, regulators, governments and the World Health Organization (WHO) harness the power of science to develop a safe and effective vaccine for Covid-19. “We stand together in support of the global community and the WHO at this time” added Dr Sebati.

IPASA is joining hands with medical professionals and industry stakeholders to assist in any way possible. Medical doctors from IPASA member companies are volunteering their time at various hospitals and providing medical advice on the recently launched national medical support hotline. Some of our CEOs are active in the different B4SA Workstreams partnering with others in our response to COVID-19.



“We are pleased with the strides that have already been made in changing policies in the public and private health sectors as the industry continues to find innovative ways to still help patients in need. These advances include medical insurance, medication access, digital health and health provision policies leading to the behavioural changes of both doctors and patients, globally. It is important that saving lives remains the priority as we navigate these trying times,” concluded Dr Sebati.

The **National Institute of Communicable Disease 24 Hour Hotline 0800 029 999** may be used for suspected cases of exposure to COVID-19.

The official **National Department of Health COVID-19 Corona Virus South African Resource Portal** is <https://sacoronavirus.co.za/> and the **What’s App line 060 012 3456**.

**ENDS.**

