



MINISTRY  
HEALTH  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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## Media Release

**28 May 2020**

As of today, the cumulative number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in South Africa is **27 403**.

### Case Data

Province	Total cases for 28 May 2020	Percentage total
Eastern Cape	3306	12,1
Free State	225	0,8
Gauteng	3329	12,1
KwaZulu-Natal	2349	8,6
Limpopo	144	0,5
Mpumalanga	111	0,4
North West	134	0,5
Northern Cape	51	0,2
Western Cape	17754	64,8
Unknown	0	0,0
<b>Total</b>	<b>27403</b>	<b>100,0</b>

Distribution of COVID-19 positive cases by age:

Age_group	Female	Male	Unknown	Grand Total
0-4years	180 (1,1%)	216 (1,9%)	2 (0,9%)	398 (1,5%)
5-9years	168 (1,1%)	179 (1,6%)	10 (4,5%)	357 (1,3%)
10-14years	243 (1,5%)	227 (2%)	12 (5,4%)	482 (1,8%)
15-19years	367 (2,3%)	288 (2,5%)	10 (4,5%)	665 (2,4%)
20-24years	1158 (7,4%)	710 (6,2%)	18 (8,1%)	1886 (6,9%)
25-29years	2101 (13,4%)	1308 (11,4%)	24 (10,8%)	3433 (12,5%)
30-34years	2320 (14,8%)	1565 (13,6%)	26 (11,7%)	3911 (14,3%)
35-39years	2224 (14,2%)	1558 (13,6%)	27 (12,1%)	3809 (13,9%)
40-44years	1813 (11,6%)	1292 (11,2%)	17 (7,6%)	3122 (11,4%)
45-49years	1449 (9,2%)	1164 (10,1%)	19 (8,5%)	2632 (9,6%)
50-54years	1134 (7,2%)	949 (8,3%)	11 (4,9%)	2094 (7,6%)
55-59years	928 (5,9%)	722 (6,3%)	9 (4%)	1659 (6,1%)
60-64years	529 (3,4%)	467 (4,1%)	7 (3,1%)	1003 (3,7%)
65-69years	352 (2,2%)	305 (2,7%)	3 (1,3%)	660 (2,4%)
70-74years	227 (1,4%)	214 (1,9%)	2 (0,9%)	443 (1,6%)
75-79years	172 (1,1%)	138 (1,2%)	1 (0,4%)	311 (1,1%)
80years&above	274 (1,7%)	138 (1,2%)	3 (1,3%)	415 (1,5%)
Unknown	54 (0,3%)	47 (0,4%)	22 (9,9%)	123 (0,4%)
Grand Total	15693 (100%)	11487 (100%)	223 (100%)	27403 (100%)

**Reported COVID-19 Deaths:**

Regrettably, we report **25** more COVID-19 related deaths- this brings the total national deaths to **577**

This evening we are saddened to report that one of the deaths that have been reported is that of an employee of the National Health Laboratory Services (NHLS). She was confirmed with COVID-19 a few weeks ago and was thereafter admitted to hospital. She finally succumbed to death today. We are deeply saddened by these news and wish to send words of comfort to her family and thank them for having allowed their loved one to serve the country during this difficult time.

We also take this opportunity to encourage other NHLS employees. We understand that this tragedy will certainly test you. But we wish to assure you of our commitment to continue taking the necessary measures to protect you while you perform your duties by providing the

PPE required and ensuring that your work place protocols observe all the safety measures to mitigate the risk of our front line employees getting infected.

We wish to express our condolences to all the loved ones of the deceased and thank the health care workers who treated these patients.

The recoveries to date are **14 370** which translates to a recovery rate of 52,4%.

The provincial breakdown is as follows:

<b>Province</b>	<b>Deaths</b>	<b>Recoveries</b>
Eastern Cape	77	1700
Free State	8	123
Gauteng	31	1993
KwaZulu Natal	50	1180
Limpopo	3	75
Mpumalanga	0	67
North West	1	45
Northern Cape	1	30
Western Cape	406	9157
<b>Total</b>	<b>577</b>	<b>14370</b>

Gender Distribution Deaths:

<b>Male (%)</b>	<b>Female (%)</b>	<b>Total</b>
308 (53,4%)	269 (46,6)	<b>577</b>

## Age Distribution Deaths:

Age	Deaths (%)	Percentage
0-9	2	0,3
10-19	1	0,2
20-29	4	0,7
30-39	33	5,7
40-49	61	10,6
50-59	144	25
60-69	153	26,5
70-79	113	19,6
80-89	55	9,5
90-99	11	1,9
	<b>577</b>	<b>100</b>

## Testing Data

We continue to see the number of tests increasing rapidly and they consist of those who present to hospitals / laboratories (passive cases) and those who are identified for testing through the screening process.

For various reasons, a lot of work has to be done to synchronize these figures at the laboratory. The figures that are reported are tests that have been conducted. Several tests are concluded, however a backlog arises where a number of them are not allocated per province. Of the specimens that have been collected based on the clinical prioritization, some specimens do not immediately get processed resulting in a backlog in tests. This means tests are not concluded on the same day when the specimen is received.

The number of days it takes to clear those specimen remains variable.

In the last 24 hours **20 727** tests have been conducted. This brings a total number of tests conducted to **655 723**.

Sector	Total tested		New tested	
Private	322 279	49%	12 289	59%
Public	333 444	51%	8 438	41%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>655 723</b>		<b>20 727</b>	

# COVID-19 indicators by province

Province Number of confirmed	Tests	Community screening	Contacts traced	Hospitalisations <sup>#</sup>	Deaths	Case fatality rate
Western Cape	143,741	511,588	13,291 (98%)	660	387	2.3
Eastern Cape	62,586	1,133,789	7,790 (85%)	135	70	2.3
Gauteng	209,657	1,559,279	12,007 (100%)	121	31	1.0
KZN	106,945	1,541,428	6,901 (100%)	146	49	2.2
North West	10,871	1,584,342	1,074 (90%)	31	1	0.8
Free State	33,165	1,594,273	3,637 (99%)	34	8	3.6
Limpopo	14,134	2,604,253	1,248 (92%)	3	3	2.1
Mpumalanga	18,124	1,744,397	2,452 (100%)	0	0	0.0
Northern Cape	5,825	640,746	796 (99%)	0	1	2.1
<b>South Africa</b>	<b>634,996*</b>	12 914 095	<b>49,196 (96%)</b>	1130	550	<b>2.1</b>



\*Unknown tests: 29948 #Note the lag time in these data



As at 27 May 2020 634 996 tests had been conducted and of those a total of 29 948 tests reflects a backlog of unallocated tests. This is due to the lack of sufficient data recorded and this requires the NICD to verify each test prior to allocating it to the province.

## Unprocessed Specimens:

Region	Unprocessed as at 9 May 2020	Unprocessed as at 14 May 2020	Unprocessed as at 21 May 2020	Unprocessed as at 25 May 2020
Eastern Cape	8350	7000	23000	22802
Free State	200	4300	6000	8800
Gauteng	15000	13000	23000	24076
KwaZulu Natal	12000	18000	28000	22802
Western Cape	14000	16630	21007	18000
<b>Total</b>	<b>49 550</b>	<b>58 930</b>	<b>101 007</b>	<b>96 480</b>

(Mpumalanga, Northern Cape, Limpopo and North West do not backlogs of unprocessed specimens)

The acting director general was indeed correct when he stated that the backlog was around 80 000. This is to confirm that the exact figure of specimens that have not been processed is 96 480 as at 25 May 2020.

The Minister also made reference to the backlog of tests that had not been allocated and stated the figure of 30 000. This was in reference to the backlog of tests done but remain unknown at this stage as depicted in the table entitled "*COVID 19 Indicators By Province.*"

The above table illustrates that number of tests conducted versus the specimens collected but not yet processed fluctuates on a daily basis.

As we have previously explained, this challenge is caused by the limited availability of test kits globally (that is, inadequate supply of extraction kits and high throughputs of PCR kits).

It must be acknowledged that this capacity issue is a global challenge.

It is on this basis that, whilst specimens to test for COVID-19 are being collected from the community screening campaign, priority is being given to processing specimens that are received from patients who are admitted in hospital and health care workers.

We continue to engage suppliers all over the world and have issued licenses through SAHPRA as part of mitigating this capacity challenge.

Dr Zwelini Mkhize

Minister of Health

ENDS...