



government  
communications

Department:  
Government Communication and Information System  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

## **CORONAVIRUS LOCKDOWN: HEALTHCARE SECTOR REGULATIONS FACT SHEET**

***The public and private sector are working in unison to respond to the pandemic.***

- The public and private sector healthcare is working as a single team to fight the spread of the coronavirus.
- The COVID-19 pandemic requires the two sectors to draw on each other's strengths to better serve the public.
- They must complement each other to ensure that everyone who tests positive with COVID-19 has access to healthcare services.
- Government is confident that private sector healthcare providers share our goal of providing treatment to all citizens irrespective of their economic status.
- Members of the public are urged to contact the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition on 0861 843 384 or on [contactus@thedti.gov.za](mailto:contactus@thedti.gov.za)

***The private sector healthcare has come on board to share their resources.***

- During this period, private healthcare providers are permitted to coordinate their response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- These includes sharing of facilities and beds, medical supplies, nurses and doctors between different companies and with Government.
- Private sector healthcare is expected to reduce the cost of diagnosis, tests, treatment and other preventative measures including vaccines.
- Both public and private healthcare sector are expected to share data on the scale of the outbreak as well as the disease and patient profile. This will make easier to conduct more targeted testing and treatment.

***The well-being of patients is our priority during this period.***

- All private hospitals must adhere to standard operating procedures and follow the clinical guidelines given by the National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD).
- Everyone is obliged to follow those protocols particularly as it relates to the infection control and prevention of the spread of COVID-19.
- We have established the National Ventilator Project to mobilise the manufacturing of non-invasive ventilators. These can be used to support patients afflicted with the disease.
- We have also increased the capacity of local manufacturing of protective face masks, hand sanitisers and pharmaceutical products.

***We are ramping up the fight against COVID-19.***

- About 10 000 Community Health Care Workers have been deployed across the country to conduct door-to-door screening in our most vulnerable communities.
- Community Health Care Workers have been provided with uniforms and identifiable tags which will make it easier for the community to identify them.
- They are only doing screening and not tests.
- Screening involves interviewing people and asking questions about their health and wellbeing.
- Community Health Care Workers will refer persons suspected of having Coronavirus to the nearest community health centre, clinic or hospital.
- Tests are only conducted at health care facilities and mobile testing sites.
- The deployment will follow a phased and targeted approach and high-density areas such as Alexandra, Diepsloot and Khayelitsha are being visited in the first wave.
- Screening in other areas will be rolled out following the same phased and targeted approach.