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THURSDAY 30 APRIL 9th Edition

Pinelands Rotary, Cape Town Facebook



Editor:

Tanya Stone Rotary Club of Pinelands



Fellow Rotarians

I hope you are all keeping safe and looking after yourselves.

I am pleased to announce that the Paparazzi is now on MyRotary Clubrunner. For those of you who would like to read previous editions, the newsletters are available on the website: https://www.rotary9350.co.za/

DG David Holzhausen will be sharing a newsletter to keep you up to date on developments, news and projects in the district and around the world. Please see his Bulletin further down.

South Africa is expected to move from a Level 5 to a Level 4 lockdown as of 1 May. Have a look at the permissions and restrictions in the report further below.

Happy Ramadan Kareem to the Muslim community.

May this Ramadan bring immense joy to you and your family.



ROTARY DISTRICT 9350



A weekly update during this time of crisis

DG David Holzhausen will be sharing a weekly update on developments, news and projects in the district and around the world.

"Connecting the World" Weekly Newsflash - Covid-19 28 April 2020 By DG David Holtzhausen

As we move through this unprecedented time in our Rotary history, here are some of the announcements and stories about what is happening.

Family Health Days POSTPONED

Hot off the press – the Family Health Days have been postponed until February 2021. To use the words of the new program director, Martin Scholtz: The COVID-19 reality is like a moving target which is impacting on a lot of activities within Rotary and I do hope that we are able to collectively find a way of accommodating this change.

Rotary Foundation Disaster Grant

Our application for a disaster grant was approved, and we expect the funds by the end of this week. This enables us to support 44 clubs with funding of R10 000 each towards food and medical supplies. Applications are streaming in and we look forward to paying these out next week.



Newlands Club Corona Virus project ; Sorting 3 tons of food into 778 parcels for 778 families of non registered ECD centres in Langa

Club activities

I asked clubs to advise what they are doing to assist their communities. From the replies received so far, it is clear that food security is the primary concern throughout the district. Replies from just 10 clubs cover donations for food exceeding R250 000, as well as partnering with NGO's to find further donations of food totalling another R350 000.

Well done to all clubs who are working to alleviate the problem of food in their local community.

If you are looking for ideas on how your club can help, please feel free to ask. We can connect you with clubs who are busy with projects to help understand how you can make a difference.

Club Meetings

From feedback to date, most clubs have moved to on line meetings using Zoom. This is likely to be the standard for the near future, and handled correctly can make clubs more effective in dealing with projects (even though we miss the fellowship.....).

If you need assistance with how to make this work, please contact me and I will connect you with someone who can help, or direct you to on line assistance (The zoom website is very helpful).



Waterfront Rotary Clubs first Zoom meeting...

Staying Connected

During this time, the most important aspect of Rotary is to stay connected. We cannot physically meet (and will not be able to for a while yet...), but can still interact with each other, help communities and plan for the future.

Rotary is more relevant than ever, and your contribution is going to help us emerge from this time stronger, more relevant and better prepared for the new future that awaits us.

Please stay safe, stay connected and let's keep up the great work!

Yours in Rotary **DG David**



Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak situation THURSDAY 30TH APRIL 2020

PLEASE NOTE: Figures are time of publish and fluctuate constantly

3,235,722

Confirmed cases Updated: 30 April

228,605

Confirmed deaths

Updated: 30 April

1,009,423

Recovered

Updated: 30 April

210

Countries, areas or territories with cases

Updated: 30 April

UPDATE



SOUTH AFRICA Thursday 30 April 2020

South Africa now has 5,350 confirmed cases.

South African statistics from Worldometer and Department of Health SA on COVID-19

5,350

Positive Cases Identified

Updated: 30 April

2,073

Recovered

Updated: 30 April

103

Deaths

Updated: 30 April

UPDATE



AFRICA

Thursday 30 April 2020

Africa now has **36,456** confirmed cases. **Source:** African Arguments ,WHO; Johns Hopkins; nCoV.

36,456

Positive Cases Identified

Updated: 30 April

11,906

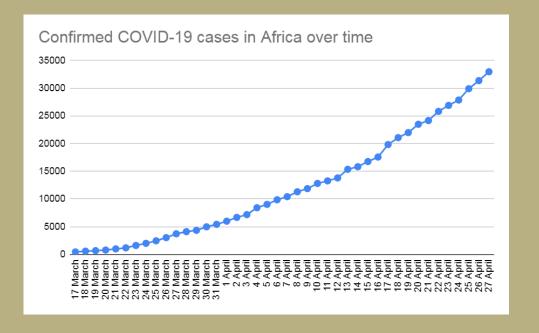
Recovered

Updated: 30 April

1,586

Deaths

Updated: 30 April



NEWS SOUTH AFRICA



LEVEL 4 LOCKDOWN

News24

These are the permissions and restrictions for Level 4 lockdown AS OF 1st May 2020

Level 4 makes provision for limited economic activity and the easing of some movement. A curfew from 20:00 to 05:00 will kick in, it will be mandatory to wear a cloth face mask, you will be able to buy hot foods for delivery, but you still can't buy alcohol.

Level 4 lockdown: Permissions and restrictions

200



Restrictions



No local or inter-provincial travel, except those operations returning to do or support L4; No international travel.

- X No concerts, cinemas & gatherings
 X Limited excercise. No public gym*
- X No alcohol X No passenger air & sea travel



Mandatory cloth masks

- Screening: Public and workplaces
- ✓ Hygiene and social distancing
 ✓ Curfew: 8pm 5am

Wholesale and retail



- ✓ Food, hygienic cleaning, protective & babycare,
- stationery

 Winter clothing, bedding & heating
- ✓ Medical supplies ✓ Fuel, coal, wood, gas & tobacco
- ha
 - ✓ Hardware supplies for qualified tradespersons: emergency repairs for homes & essential services
 - Components for vehicles for essential workers ✓ Chemicals, packaging & supply of L4 products

Manufacturing



- ✓ 100% L4 products, inputs & paper
- ✓ 50% stationery, cement & construction material ✓ 50% automotive manufacturing incl. components
- 100% petroleum smelters, refineries, furnaces



- ✓ 50% winter clothing, bedding & heating
 ✓ 100% inputs to essential services
 ✓ Essential maintenance to prevent damage & to
- permit orderly shutdown 20% All other manufacturing

Transport and logistics



- ✓ Cargo for domestic & neighbouring countries and prioritisation of essential goods

 E-hailing*

 Limited public transport*



- Online services & livestreaming
 - Newspapers, broadcasting
 Productions for local broadcast

Service: Repairs and emergency



- Emergency car repairs Emergency repair work including plumbers. electricians, glaziers, roof, locksmiths & repairs

Information and comms



- ✓ All telecomms, information, comms technology
- ICT equipment & airtime
- ✓ Postal services & courier services for medical products and L4 services

Agriculture, forestry and fishing



- ✓ Food agriculture & services (livestock); export agriculture
- ✓ Essential fishing operations
- ✓ Essential harvesting & storage activities ✓ Flori-culture & forestry





- 100% coal production for Eskom ✓ 100% open-cast mining
 ✓ 50% other



Construction



Critical civil engineering and construction for public works projects, (incl. water, energy, sanitation, roads & bridges); critical maintenance & repairs

Accommodation and food service



✓ Isolation guarantine accommodation ✓ Food delivery subject to curfew; no sit-down; no takaway

Domestic support



Live-in staff and support for L4 personnel

Health and welfare



- ✓ Trade union essential staff *
 ✓ All social work, care and relief
 ✓ Funeral and cremation services
 ✓ Wildlife management
 ✓ Veterinary & medical services
- ✓ Sanitation, pest control, sewerage & refuse removal, 50% recycling (paper/glass/metal), incl informal traders

Finance and business



- If possible, work from home
 Support Level 4 services and equipment rental
 Private security
 Call centres*

 - ✓ Essential financial services*
- ✓ Payroll-related workers

* Subject to regulations, directions and curfew

A funny moment that saw Ramaphosa lift SA's spirits during lockdown

Bv UNATHI NKANJENI Times Live



President Cyril Ramaphosa had social media chuckling when he fumbled with his face mask after giving a televised speech on April 23 2020.

President Cyril Ramaphosa's Covid-19 addresses to the nation have provided some entertainment for South Africans during these unprecedented times. His latest address, on Thursday, was no exception as many were left in stitches after he struggled with a face mask.

LAUGH A LITTLE: RAMAPHOSA TAKES MASK FAIL IN HIS STRIDE WITH SA SCARF

Eyewitness news



President Cyril Ramaphosa has a light moment at the end of his Freedom Day address.

President Cyril Ramaphosa used the end of his virtual FreedomDay address as a light moment to laugh a little and make up for the mask 'incident' from last week's address on the lockdown by placing his South African scarf over his mouth.

SA Express placed under provisional liquidation

By Ray Mahlaka Business Maverick



An SA Express jet on the runway at Cape Town International Airport.

SA Express, whose flight routes typically serve smaller cities in South Africa, becomes the first state-owned entity to be placed under provisional liquidation after the failure of its business rescue process.

The High Court in Johannesburg granted an order on Tuesday 28 April 2020 for the provisional liquidation of SA Express, the state-owned airline that was placed under businesses rescue by the same court on 6 February.

SA Express, whose flight routes typically serve smaller cities in SA, becomes the first state-owned entity to be placed under provisional liquidation after the failure of its business rescue process.

The appointed business rescue practitioners of SA Express, Phahlani Mkhombo and Daniel Terblanche, launched an urgent court application on 25 March to provisionally liquidate the airline because it has completely run out of cash and had no reasonable prospects of being rescued.

The Department of Public Enterprises (DPE), which oversees the operations of SA Express as its sole shareholder, did not oppose the provisional liquidation application.

In a hearing about the liquidation application on Tuesday 28 April, which was held via a Zoom video call, Judge Mpostoli Twala said Mkhombo and Terblanche had satisfied the merits of having SA Express placed under provisional liquidation.

This means that the business rescue proceedings of SA Express have been discontinued and the court may appoint a liquidator on a provisional basis. A liquidator can be appointed to safeguard SA Express assets and not assess claims against the company by creditors (including commercial banks) until the final liquidation of the airline is ordered by the court.

DPE was not immediately available to comment about the court order.

Overlooking the missing millions – another 'stain on our national conscience'

By Mark Heywood Maverick Citizen



In the last few weeks it has often been said that SARS-Cov-2 is a virus that knows no boundaries – be they national, socioeconomic, class, race or ethnicity.

Although Covid-19 the disease has malicious preferences for the elderly and those with pre-existing conditions, the virus itself doesn't discriminate in its infectiousness. If you are a human being, you are at risk. It's a great leveller of artificial denominators based on class, gender and colour.

Sadly, however, judging by both our public health and socioeconomic responses to Covid-19, it seems that humans do
discriminate. Even more troubling is the fact that the South
African government, which has won accolades as a global
leader in a science and human rights-based response to the
pandemic, is scoring little better than the Trumps and
Johnsons when it comes to ensuring the protection of
migrants and refugees from both SARS-Cov-2 and its
economic impact.

Over the last few weeks one of the most haunting sounds I have heard has been the cries of hungry, sometimes starving, migrant communities pleading for access to food. I see it on WhatsApp groups. I hear it in conversations. It is expressed in an anonymous article by an Ethiopian refugee we published today. This long weekend a crisis hotline (066 076 8845) run by public interest legal organisations received over 100 calls from "refugees, asylum seekers and migrants begging for food parcels".

Anecdotal evidence suggests that hunger and income deprivation are not the criteria for receiving food parcels – rather it is a South African ID or proof of permanent residence.

Among some 'foodlords' there seems to be almost a pleasurable vindictiveness in denying food to non-South Africans.

"Serves you right, go home," is the subtext.

READ MORE

https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2020-04-28-giving-protection-to-the-missing-millions-anotherstain-on-our-national-conscience/

Stage 4 will be a gemors that the state will battle to control: experts

By Graeme Hosken, Belinda Pheto, Alex Patrick and Paul Ash Times Select



MOVING ALONG Political analyst Ralph Mathekga says government will need to increase the number of tests before thinking about geographical lockdown.

Experts have warned that a staggered lockdown, in which provinces and even municipalities operate on different Covid-19 alert levels, will be difficult to police and may be more complex than government systems can handle.

Last week, President Cyril Ramaphosa announced that SA would move to a "level four lockdown" on Friday, with more businesses returning to work, but added that different levels may apply to different areas.

"Because Covid-19 case numbers and rates of infection differ across the country, alert levels will be determined at the provincial and, in some cases, the district level once the full nationwide lockdown ends," he said.

Several experts surveyed by Times Select warned that a range of factors would make this complicated to manage. "We are not clear on the objectives of the operational plan or the resources for it. The police have operational plans for disasters such as floods, but this is unprecedented. The new phase adds another layer of complexity," said Sean Tait, of the African Policing Civilian Oversight Forum.

"If the new phase restricts movement between provinces it will be easier to police, but if it comes down to controlling movement between metros, districts, towns and regions within provinces, serious challenges will be encountered."

Institute for Security Studies policing expert Johan Burger said it was difficult to understand how policing would work. "When we started with the national lockdown, that was complex enough. Now extra layers are added."

He said it might be difficult for law enforcers to understand the regulations, adding that even initial lockdown regulations caused confusion.

"If the police struggle to understand and enforce the new regulations, can you imagine how difficult it will be for soldiers who are not used to these kinds of operations.

"It's paramount that steps are put in place to ensure the military are properly trained in the regulations and their enforcement, especially given the number of incidents we have seen where the police and military got it so horribly wrong, with fatal consequences."

Eldred de Klerk, a comparative policing and social conflict specialist at the African Centre for Security and Intelligence Praxis, said it boiled down to preparation.

"There is absolutely no room for confusion. It needs to be spelt out exactly who must stay at home and why. Things like going out for exercise must be clearly explained. People must know when and where they can exercise."

Political analyst Ralph Mathekga said the geographical lockdown would have to consider that many provinces are attached to economic hubs in other provinces.

"There are people commuting from KwaMhlanga in Mpumalanga to Pretoria and Joburg daily. So government should really have information about the movement of people. When they choose this route, they must have definite stats, highlighting the high-risk areas and movement of people," said Mathekga.

"This is a very sophisticated model, with a high margin for error, especially because we have limited data on testing. Government will need to increase the number of tests before even thinking about geographical lockdown."

Dr Ina Gouws, political studies and governance expert at the University of the Free State (UFS), said corruption, poor skills and mismanagement meant the government did not have the capabilities to handle the complex phasing-in system.

Her colleague, Dr Johannes Belle, a disaster management expert, said the success of the operation would depend on how the public adhered to the changeover from level five to level four. "Social distancing was a great headache during phase five lockdown and there is no guarantee it will be observed during the phase four. Masks were scarce and so was the availability of sanitisers. These are becoming readily available at reasonable prices, but still beyond the reach of the majority of poor and vulnerable people.

"We are left with constant washing of hands with soap, but we do not move around with water and soap. Therefore this measure is more effective indoors, which is not where the main problem is," said Belle.

"There is time and opportunity to address all these concerns to prevent chaos and confusion. Public trust and participation is essential for this process to succeed. This is an opportunity to use an enormous crisis to put these principles at the centre for a change."

The National Coronavirus Command Council will determine the Coronavirus levels for provinces, metros and districts, taking into account Covid-19 case numbers and rates of infections.

TWITTER MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENTS





Presidency | South Africa



Because Covid-19 confirmed case numbers & rates of infection differ across the country, alert levels will be determined at the provincial, and in some cases, the district level once the full nationwide lockdown ends. #COVID19 #CoronaVirusSA

What lies ahead for South Africa's elderly under lockdown beyond 1 May



By Murray Williams News24

South Africans older than 60 may face many more months at home under proposed "risk-adjusted" lockdown rules from 1 May, if the projected coronavirus peak indeed hits the country around September.

President Cyril Ramaphosa announced a raft of measures on Thursday to open the economy and sectors of society under a new, five-level alert system.

He said: "When the country moves to Level 4 on 1 May, those who are elderly, and those with underlying conditions, must remain at home and take additional precautions to isolate themselves."

Cabinet ministers are due to unpack the various implications of all the new rules, which will be gazetted sometime this week after **public comment**.

If finalised, these measures for the elderly would apply to effectively between 7-10% of the population and up to six million of the country's residents, according to census data. Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs Minister Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma on Saturday said the "elderly" were categorised as people aged 60 and older.

What do the various draft plans show for work and personal movement for people older than 60?

Personal movement

According to the draft framework for sectors released by government on Saturday, elderly people were encouraged at all alert levels to prioritise their health when it came to personal movement.

From Levels 2 to 5, the most severe of the levels, "elderly and persons with comorbidities are encouraged to self-isolate and only leave home for exceptional reasons", the schedule said.

At Level 1, the most relaxed of the levels, it reads "elderly and persons with comorbidities are encouraged to take additional precautions when leaving home".

Work

With regards to work, government confirmed on Saturdaythat its stance for the elderly is: "Workers above the age of 60, as well as workers with comorbidities, should be offered a work

READ MORE

https://www.news24.com/SouthAfrica/News/whatlies-ahead-for-south-africas-elderly-under-lockdownbevond-1-may-20200427

Plato requests urgent clarity on soup kitchens during lockdown after arrest



Cape Town Mayor Dan Plato

By Staff Reporter IOL

Cape Town – Mayor Dan Plato has written to the ministers of Social Development, Lindiwe Zulu, and Cooperative Governance, Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, requesting urgent clarity on the validity of soup kitchens to operate.

This comes after the SAPS arrested at least one person for allegedly running a soup kitchen, Plato said on Wednesday.

He has requested that amendments be made to the lockdown regulations to allow organisations to transport and distribute food to feed residents in vulnerable communities.

"Food security is becoming an increasing concern across the world due to countrywide coronavirus lockdowns.

Thousands have lost their jobs, with more job losses anticipated," said Plato.

"With many communities no longer able to feed themselves due to a lack of income caused by the national lockdown, I have been handing out equipment in the form of three-plate gas stoves and dry food items to supply soup kitchens across the Cape metro for at least three months.

"This sustainable approach allows these NGOs across our city to provide thousands of warm meals to our residents most in need.

"Social distancing must always be practised when queuing for a meal and we are educating NGOs about queue management and the importance of social distancing.

"With the appropriate safety measures in place, there is no need to stop soup kitchens from feeding our communities.

"While national government must continue to provide urgent food aid to all residents in need through Sassa (SA Social Security Agency), the City of Cape Town is trying to complement these efforts with our own contributions."

HERE'S BASIC EDUCATION'S PLAN TO SALVAGE SCHOOL YEAR

WRITTEN BY THABO TSHABALALA POWER 98.7 NEWS



Schools will tentatively reopen in May but only for some learners.

The Department of Basic Education confirms that the schooling year is set to resume on 4 May for teachers and 6 May for some learners.

During a joint parliamentary committee meeting on Wednesday, basic education director general Hubert Mweli tells members of parliament shows that matric and Grade 7 learners will likely go back to school on 6 May, followed by Grade 6 and 11 pupils on 20 May but under strict conditions.

The department briefed parliament's Portfolio Committee on Basic Education about its plan to salvage the academic year, which has been on halt for almost two months due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Mweli outlines the basic education departments phasing in approach to reopening schools.

PHASING IN APPROACH				
Public Ordinary/Special Schools	Schools of Skill	SID Schools	Special Care Centres (LSPID)	Tentative Dates
Grades 12 and 7	Year 4			06 May 2020
Grades 11 and 6	Year 3	Grade 6		20 May 2020
Grades 10 and 5	Year 2	Grade 5		03 June 2020
Grades 9 and 4	Year 1	Grade 4		17 June 2020
Grades 8 and 3		Grade 3	Year 3	01 July 2020
Grades 2 and 1		Grade 1 and 2	Year 2	08 July 2020
Grades R		Grade R	Year 1	15 July 2020
2030		special and	also	Party Store 3 1 (seely Store

Click above to follow Twitter link

IMPLICATIONS FOR EXAMINATIO

- The Grade 12 will be expected to write the set fully fledged examinations, based on covering the entire curriculum and other grades will be given a reworked curriculum and assessed on 80%.
- The May/June Exams for the National Senior Certificate (Grade 12) will be combined with the October /November Exams and rescheduled for November/December 2020.
- Marking of examination scripts will run up to end of December
- Moderation, standardisation and release of the results will be moved to mid/end of January 2021.
- SBA will have to be calculated minus the May/June exams.
- f) Grade 12 will still write preparatory examinations in September.
- The November/December examination time table will have to be g)



"Matric exams may be finished in the first or second week of December. Marking may take about two to three weeks. The release of the results will be towards the end of January. June exams will not happen. Preparatory September exams will still happen," he outlines.

School holidays

To make up for the significant amount of lost teaching time, school holidays will be dramatically cut short. The winter vacation will be shortened to a week and the spring vacation will be a day linked to a long weekend in September.



Hygiene

Every school will be required to sanitise classrooms prior to the start of school, teachers should limit the number of movement in classrooms. Learners will also be required to sanitise their hands before entering the bus.

Mweli says they have procured cloth masks and other Covid-19 necessities. "We will be providing every learner with two cloth masks for all quintile 1 to quintile 4 schools. Going forward, we will only provide for quintile 1 to 3. Teachers will be provided with masks

BASIC SANITATION AND HYGIENE PACKAG

- A basic and essential hygiene and sanitation package has been developed, and provinces are procuring items. These include cleaning and disinfection materials, PPE, sanitizers, handwashing soap, gloves, cloth masks & thermometers.
- The DBE has developed Guidelines for schools on maintaining hygiene during the COVID-19 pandemic to provide recommendations on the proper cleaning and use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) based on risk exposure including:
 - Basic principles of infection prevention and control;
 - Risk reduction methods for schools, classrooms, toilets/bathrooms, offices, and food preparation arears;
 - Daily duties of cleaners; and
 - How to use Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

Learners will also be required to sanitise their hands before entering the bus.

Mweli says learners' temperatures will be taken.
"Whenever you come back to school, we will take your temperature."

Those who will conduct testing at schools will be provided with the necessary training.

Implications for curriculum

The director general outlines some of the implications for the curriculum with Covid-19 awareness added to the curriculum. Mweli says the Life Orientation subject will be amended to contain awareness on Covid-19.

Pause (k) VIPLICATIONS FOR THE CURRICUES MA

IMPLICATIONS

STRATEGY/ RECOMMENDATIONS

Curriculum Coverage

Curriculum Review

- Curriculum reorganisation and trimming (except for Grade 12);
- Annual teaching plans amended for each grade and each subject;
- Fundamental skills and concepts for each grade will be retained;
- Content in Life Orientation/Skills will be rearranged to address personal hygiene, self-study skills, emotional and psychological trauma;
- Every lesson should contribute 5 minutes teaching awareness on COVID-19.

SOCIAL DISTANCING IMPLICATIONS

Infrastructure and Furniture

- Sanitize classroom prior to start of school day
- · Sanitize hands on entering of classroom
- · Limit movement of learners between classes
- No clustering of desks in classrooms

Transport

- Work with DoT to ensure that buses are sanitized prior to start of trip
- · Sanitize hands on entering of bus
- Manage distance between learners in bus
- Compulsory wearing of masks throughout the school day, starting before boarding transport





The department's minister Angie Motshekga is expected to brief the nation on Thursday about the final measures for the schooling year to resume.

As South Africa moves from level five to level four of the lockdown, some sectors of the economy will resume business from 1 May.

This means more people will return to the workplace but most of the lockdown measures remain in place.

Under the lockdown, citizens may only leave their homes to purchase groceries, medicine, visit a healthcare practitioner or go to work if their occupation is classified as an essential service.

No visiting is allowed under lockdown level four – whether visiting of relatives or friends.

Moreover, it will be mandatory for South Africans to wear face masks in public from May.

The country has recorded 4996 infections since confirming its first Coronavirus case on 5 March. It has since recorded 93 Covid-19 related deaths.

LOCKDOWN: SCRAP 2020 ACADEMIC YEAR, PROMOTE LEARNERS – EXPERT

WRITTEN BY POWER DIGITAL

Education expert and Stellenbosch University professor Jonathan Jansen says the 2020 academic year for basic education should be written off owing to the indefinite suspension of schooling more than a month ago.

READ MORE

<u>Lockdown: Scrap 2020 academic year, promote</u> <u>learners – Expert</u>

Companies that didn't pay UIF can still claim corona money - but they must be registered

By Business Insider

Companies who have not kept up with their contributions to the Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF) are still allowed to claim coronavirus payouts, labour minister Thulas Nxesi said this week.

Read here

Distributor of protective gear could cough up R11m for price gouging as crackdown continues

By Marelise van der Merwe Fin24

The Competition Commission has referred a consent agreement with a distributor of personal protective equipment to the Competition Tribunal after its probe found the company inflated prices of essential items.

The Competition Tribunal has been asked to confirm the agreement as an order.

Read the full story here

7 Orcas – including 2 babies – spotted hunting in Cape Town's False Bay

By Kabous le Roux CAPE TALK



Simon's Town Boat Company spotted a group of Orcas in False Bay on Sunday.

There were at least six, possibly seven of the magnificent mammals – including two very young calves - hunting in the waters of Buffels Bay near Cape Point.

It's not clear what they were going after, probably one of the many seals in the area.

A twitter message below:



Simon's Town Boat Company

Orcas in False Bay today!

AND, how fortunate we were to be hired by a media house with the necessary ES permits, to get out & report on the sighting.

There were 6, possibly 7 animals foraging in the deeper waters in Buffels Bay. One Male, 3 or 4 females and 2 calfs (one very young).

We're not sure what they were targeting, but there were many seals & birds around. Again, as we've noticed before, the seals weren't the slightest bit afraid of the killer whales and they showed no interest in them (luckily).

We spent a few hours with them, of which they spent little time on the surface. On a few occasions we thought that they had given us the slip, but then re-appeared a distance away. The highlight was the little calf who entertained us with a few beautiful breaches.

Western Cape to overtake Gauteng and become SA's epicentre of Covid-19 outbreak

By <u>Qama Qukula</u> CAPE TALK

Western Cape Health authorities are bracing themselves for a rapid rise in the number of Covid-19 infections and deaths in the next few days.

As of Friday 24 April, the Western Cape has recorded the highest number of Covid-19 related deaths in the South Africa.

The province has also surpassed Gauteng with the most infections, according to Health Minister Dr Zweli Mkhize.

On Thursday evening, Mkhize reported that the Western Cape now has 1,279 cases, accounting for 32.4% of the country's total cases of 3,953.

On Thursday morning, Dr Keith Cloete, head of the provincial Health Department, predicted that the Western Cape would become the epicentre of the virus.

He said provincial health authorities would see a significant increase in Covid-19 cases as officials ramp up active testing and contact chasing.

Dr Cloete said that the Western Cape would overtake Gauteng with the highest number of infections in a matter of days.In all likelihood, in the next two or three days, we will overtake Gauteng. We're also expecting the deaths to rise .We will probably be the number one province, in terms of deaths, very soon.We are increasing the number of cases... we are chasing up results, we've got big groups of positive cases that have come from clusters, mainly originating in a few supermarkets, factories and workplaces.

He also noted that the province is seeing more high-risk patients dying of the coronavirus.

Dr Cloete emphasised that elderly people and people with underlying diseases face the greatest risk of falling seriously ill once they've contracted the virus.

HOT OFF THE PRESS

No tobacco or alcohol sales under Level 4



No booze or smokes under level 4 restrictions

Alcohol and cigarettes will not be allowed under level 4 restrictions, Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma said on Wednesday night.

READ MORE Timeslive.co.za

WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND THE WORLD



UNITED STATES Surge in poisonings amid US rush for disinfectants

By Robert Langreth Bloomberg News



Sanitisers and disinfectants get rid of germs in different ways and should not be used synonymously.

Poisonings related to cleaners and disinfectants surged in the US last month as the global pandemic spurred a haphazard rush to disinfect everything.

Calls to state and local poison control centers tied to cleaners and disinfectants rose 20% in the first quarter to 45,550, according to data from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Complaints included shortness of breath from inhalation and dizziness and vomiting from ingestion.

"Calls to poison centers increased sharply at the beginning of March 2020 for exposures to both cleaners and disinfectants," according to the CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report. While the increase affected all age groups, children 5 and under were disproportionately impacted.

One adult woman described in the report developed breathing difficulties and wheezing after filling her sink with 10% bleach solution, vinegar, and hot water to soak her produce. That led to a noxious odor and then an ambulance ride to the emergency room to get oxygen and broncho-dilators. The woman improved after a few hours.

In another case, a preschool-age child swallowed an unknown amount of ethanol-based hand sanitizer. She got dizzy, fell and hit her head, and then vomited on the way to the ER. Her blood-alcohol level was more than three times the legal limit for driving in most states. She recovered after two days in the hospital.

To prevent chemical exposures, "users should always read and follow directions on the label, only use water at room temperature for dilution (unless stated otherwise on the label), avoid mixing chemical products, wear eye and skin protection, ensure adequate ventilation, and store chemicals out of the reach of children," the report concludes.

PLEASE DO NOT inject or swallow disinfectants or sanitisers at

Coronavirus: Trump 'can't imagine why' US disinfectant calls spiked

By News24

President Donald Trump has said he "can't imagine why" US hotline calls about disinfectant have risen after he suggested injecting the substance to treat coronavirus.

The governors of Michigan and Maryland on Sunday blamed the president for the spike in such calls.
Following heavy criticism from medical professionals, Mr Trump said his remarks were made sarcastically.
Disinfectants are hazardous substances and can be poisonous if ingested.

During Monday's Covid-19 news conference, a reporter noted that the state of Maryland's emergency hotline had received hundreds of calls in recent days seeking guidance about Mr Trump's comments.

"I can't imagine why," the president said, moving quickly on. "I can't imagine that."

When asked whether he took responsibility at all for the increase in calls, Mr Trump replied: "No, I don't."

Trump returns to the podium after twoday hiatus

By News24

US President Donald Trump was so angry at the media, and so sore from ridicule over his suggestion that coronavirus patients be injected with disinfectant, that he abandoned his daily briefing Monday.

Well, for a couple hours anyway.

In a confusing series of announcements, the White House scheduled a press conference with Trump for Monday afternoon. Then scrapped it. Then put it back on. In the end, Trump held forth in the Rose Garden. It was by his standards a largely drama free event, where he pronounced America's pandemic and economic crisis was poised to bottom out and predicted an "incredible" recovery next year.

"Every day it gets better," said the Republican president, whose re-election campaign has been upended by the sudden crisis.

This was Trump's latest attempt at damage control after criticism - even from some in his own party - that the daily briefings were too combative, turning into miniature versions of his now suspended campaign rallies.

READMORE: https://www.news24.com/World/News/t rump-abandons-enemy-media-briefings-then-comesright-back-20200428

US tops one million coronavirus cases



By News24

The number of confirmed coronavirus infections in the United States topped one million on Tuesday, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University.

The pandemic has claimed the lives of more than 57 000 people in the US, which leads the world in the number of confirmed infections with 1 002 498 by the Baltimore-based school's latest count.

Jack Dorsey, Bill Gates And At Least 75 Other Billionaires Donating To Pandemic Relief By Forbes



A small percentage of the world's richest people have publicly disclosed financial gifts to help fight COVID-19. Others are using their money to help support their own companies.

As the coronavirus pandemic sweeps across the globe, billionaires are donating to the fight against it—with some giving more than others. Since mid-March, *Forbes* has been tracking how much this ultra-rich set has been donating to COVID-19 causes. While most of the world's 2,095 billionaires have yet to give, or won't disclose how much they've spent, at least 77 of them have reached into their wallets. Of those, 54 have disclosed at least part of their giving while another 23, such as Alibaba's Joseph Tsai, gave unspecified amounts of cash or provided assistance in the form of medical supplies or equipment that *Forbes* was unable to value.

READ MORE:

https://www.forbesafrica.com/billionaires/2020/04/29/jack-dorsey-bill-gates-and-at-least-75-other-billionaires-donating-to-pandemic-relief/

Germans urged to stay at home amid fears Covid-19 infection rate is rising again

By The Guardian



The German chancellor, Angela Merkel – seen here speaking during an international climate video conference on Tuesday – has stressed the importance of keeping the Covid-19 reproduction rate below one.

Germans have been advised to stay at home as much as possible and continue to apply physical distancing as official data appeared to indicate the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic was once again accelerating.

The basic reproduction number (R), indicating how many new cases one infected person generates on average, has come to be seen as the key indicator over whether restrictions on public life can be loosened after Angela Merkel stressed the importance of keeping the number below one.

On Tuesday, the German government's disease control agency, the Robert Koch Institute (RKI), announced the reproduction number for Monday 27 April had risen to 1, after having put it as low as 0.7 in mid-April.

Lothar Wieler, the RKI's president, later specified that the reproduction rate for Monday was 0.96, and therefore technically still below one.

Scientists believe the basic reproduction rate of Covid-19, R0, to lie somewhere between 2.4 and 3.3. Without measures taken to curb the spread of the virus, the rate of new infections would grow exponentially until about 70% of the population has been infected.

Wieler appealed to the German public to "preserve our success" of having prevented health services from being overwhelmed by continuing to apply physical distancing even though federal authorities have already begun to relax restrictions on social movement.

READ MORE:

https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/apr/ 28/germans-urged-to-stay-home-amid-covid-19infection-rate-fears

Three of the world's hardest-hit nations are preparing to end their lockdowns

By Simon Brandon Freelance journalist WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM



Spain's children are allowed out to play for the first time in six weeks.

- Numbers of new infections in Italy, France and Spain continue to fall.
- These countries have now begun the process of easing their lockdowns.
- Shops and factories will be among the first to resume operation.

From flattening one curve to getting ahead of another: three of the world's hardest-hit nations are now preparing to ease the restrictions out in place to halt the spread of COVID-19.

After the US, the countries with the next-highest numbers of confirmed cases - Spain, Italy and France - have announced plans for cautious and gradual exits from their lockdowns. Here's a rundown of each country's plans as they take their first steps back towards a semblance of normality.

Italy

Early on in the crisis, Italy emerged as a major global coronavirus hotspot. The government's response was to put the country into a strict lockdown, which began on 9 March; Italy was the first European nation to do so. Since late March, however, Italy's numbers of new infections have declined steadily, and the country is now beginning to re-emerge into the spring sunshine.

On Sunday 26 April, following talks with regional and business leaders, Prime Minister Guiseppe Conte promised to start lifting restrictions from 4 May. On that date, parks will be reopened, people will be permitted to exercise outdoors once again and to visit relatives - as long as they observe social distancing and wear face masks. The country's factories and building sites will also be allowed to reopen on 4 May, albeit with strict social distancing protocols in place. Restaurants will be permitted to serve takeaways at the same time, and - along with shops, hairdressers and museums - will reopen fully on 1 June.

Italy's schools look set to remain closed until after the summer holidays, however.

Spain

The Spanish government has enforced one of Europe's strictest lockdowns. Since restrictions began on 14 March, the country's citizens have been forbidden from leaving their house unless it is to visit supermarkets, pharmacies or medical facilities or to walk the dog. But following a sustained decrease in the rate of new infections, those restrictions are starting to be eased.

Spanish children under 14 years of age have been confined indoors for the past six weeks, but as of Sunday 26 April they are now allowed outside for an hour each day, although parks and playgrounds remain closed. From next weekend, adults will also be allowed out to exercise or to go for a walk. And in a televised address to the nation last week, Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez announced that the gradual lifting of other restrictions would begin in the second half of May, assuming the rates of infection continue to decline - but "de-escalation would be slow", he said.

Spain's schools are not expected to reopen until September.

France

On Tuesday 28 April, the French Prime Minister, Edouard Philippe, will announce the government's plans to ease the country out of its lockdown. It seems timely; according to a recent poll, support for the lockdown among French citizens is now below 50%.

Restrictions will begin to be lifted from 11
May, according to reports. In a speech he will deliver to
the National Assembly - the French parliament's lower
house - Philippe is expected to outline a timetable for 17
priority areas, including the reopening of workplaces,
increased testing, and bringing the country's public
transport systems back up to speed.

Arnaud Bernaert, Head of Health and Healthcare, World Economic Forum, said: "For those European countries where governments have started to ease restrictions, a controlled transition can be achieved with a number of measures. First, there should be clear evidence that COVID-19 has transitioned to a controlled phase. Sufficient health and medical capacity needs to be in place in case of rebound and health resources for treating non-COVID patients must be taken into consideration.

"Higher-risk settings such as senior living facilities and high-population concentration areas require continued observation to minimize outbreaks. Many countries have scaled up their testing numbers, and have started contact tracing – this can also help limit further imported cases. Finally, social distancing measures and remote working policies with engaged communities and employers will ensure the transition is co-ordinated in manageable stages."

The government has also suggested that restrictions on travel within France could also be lifted at the same time. In an earlier televised address to the nation, meanwhile, President Emmanuel Macron announced that France's schools and crèches would begin to reopen gradually from 11 May, although parents would not be compelled to send their children back into the classroom.

Coronavirus vaccine: When will we have one?

By James Gallagher Health and Science correspondent BBC News

Coronavirus is spreading around the world, but there are still no vaccines to protect the body against the disease it causes, Covid-19.

Medical researchers are working hard to change that.

Why is a coronavirus vaccine important?

The virus spreads easily and the majority of the world's population is still vulnerable to it. A vaccine would provide some protection by training people's immune systems to fight the virus so they should not become sick.

This would allow lockdowns to be lifted more safely, and social distancing to be relaxed.

What sort of progress is being made?

Research is happening at breakneck speed. About 80 groups around the world are researching vaccines and some are now entering clinical trials.

The first human trial for a vaccine was announced last month by scientists in Seattle. Unusually, they are skipping any animal research to test its safety or effectiveness.

In Oxford, the first human trial in Europe has started with more than 800 recruits - half will receive the Covid-19 vaccine and the rest a control vaccine which protects against meningitis but not coronavirus.

Pharmaceutical giants Sanofi and GSK have teamed up to develop a vaccine.

Australian scientists have begun injecting ferrets with two potential vaccines. It is the first comprehensive pre-clinical trial involving animals, and the researchers hope to test humans by the end of April.

However, no-one know how effective any of these vaccines will be.



When will we have a coronavirus vaccine?

A vaccine would normally take years, if not decades, to develop. Researchers hope to achieve the same amount of work in only a few months.

Most experts think a vaccine is likely to become available by mid-2021, about 12-18 months after the new virus, known officially as Sars-CoV-2, first emerged.

That would be a huge scientific feat and there are no guarantees it will work.

Four coronaviruses already circulate in human beings. They cause common cold symptoms and we don't have vaccines for any of them.

What still needs to be done?

Multiple research groups have designed potential vaccines, however, there is much more work to do.

- Trials need to show the vaccine is safe. It would not be useful if it caused more problems than the disease
- Clinical trials will also need to show the vaccine provokes an immune response which would protect people from getting sick
- A way of producing the vaccine on a huge scale must be developed for the billions of potential doses
- Medicines regulators must approve it before it can be given
- Finally there will be the huge logistical challenge of actually inoculating most of the world's population

Shopping for Food During the COVID-19 Pandemic - Information for Consumers

By FDA



As grocery shopping remains a necessity during this pandemic, many people have questions about how to shop safely.

There is currently no evidence of human or animal food or food packaging being associated with transmission of the coronavirus that causes COVID-19. This particular coronavirus causes respiratory illness and is spread from person-to-person, unlike foodborne gastrointestinal or GI viruses, such as norovirus and hepatitis A that often make people ill through contaminated food.

During this pandemic, consumers are getting most of their food from grocery stores, and many stores have modified their operating hours to allow for more time to restock shelves and clean. In addition, many stores are providing special hours for seniors or other high-risk individuals to shop and are offering pick-up and delivery services.

To help protect yourself, grocery store workers, and other shoppers, it is important to keep a few things in mind:

- 1. Prepare a shopping list in advance. Buy just 1 to 2 weeksworth of groceries at a time. Buying more than you need can create unnecessary demand and temporary shortages.
- 2. Wear a face covering or mask while you are in the store.



- 3. Carry your own wipes, or use one provided by the store to wipe down the handles of the shopping cart or basket. If you use reusable shopping bags, ensure they are cleaned or washed before each use.
- 4. Practice social distancing while shopping keeping at least 6 feet between you, other shoppers, and store employees. Keep your hands away from your face.

5. Wash your hands with warm water and soap for at least 20 seconds when you return home and again after you put away your groceries.



6. Again, there is no evidence of food packaging being associated with the transmission of COVID-19. However, if you wish, you can wipe down product packaging and allow it to air dry, as an extra precaution.

As always, it is important to follow these food safety practices to help prevent foodborne illness:

- 7. Before eating, rinse fresh fruits and vegetables under running tap water, including those with skins and rinds that are not eaten. Scrub firm produce with a clean brush. For canned goods, remember to clean lids before opening.
- 8. When unpacking groceries, refrigerate or freeze meat, poultry, eggs, seafood, and other perishables—like berries, lettuce, herbs, and mushrooms—within 2 hours of purchasing.
- Regularly clean and sanitize kitchen counters using a commercially available disinfectant product.



Always keep in mind the basic 4 food safety steps —

Clean, Separate, Cook, and Chill.

ENVIRONMENT TOPICS AROUND THE GLOBE



Britain breaks record for coal-free power generation

Coal-fired plants have not contributed to electricity grid for 18 consecutive days

BY Jillian Ambrose and Niko Kommenda **The Guardian**



Britain is going without coal power for record periods.

Britain has gone without coal-fired power generation for its longest stretch since the Industrial Revolution, breaking the existing record of 18 consecutive days this morning.

The UK's energy system has not used coal-fired plants for more than 438 hours, according to National Grid data, the longest uninterrupted period since 1882.

The 18-day stretch has broken the UK's previous record, which was set on 4 June 2019, partly because of a collapse in demand for electricity during the coronavirus lockdown and because of greater use of solar power.

The UK set a new solar power record on 20 April after solar farms generated more than 9.6GW of electricity for the first time.

The lockdown has also caused the UK's electricity demand to fall to record lows because schools, shops, factories and restaurants have closed.

On Monday the demand was forecast to fall almost a fifth below the usual levels in April, according to the data. The lower overall demand for electricity means low-carbon energy sources are able to make up a greater proportion of the energy system than usual.

This month National Grid said it may need to turn windfarms and some power plants off in order to avoid overloading the electricity grid.

The new coal-free record comes almost three years after the grid first ran without coal power for 24 hours for the first time. Since then, all but four of the UK's coal power plants have shut in advance of a government ban on coal generation from 2025.

Coal made up only 2.1% of the country's total power mix last year, a dramatic fall from almost a quarter just four years ago.

The collapse of coal and rise of renewable energy sources have led to a drastic reduction in carbon emissions from the UK power sector. Since 2012, the average carbon intensity of the grid – the amount of emissions required to produce one kilowatt hour of energy – has declined by more than two-thirds, from $507g\ of\ CO_2\ to\ 161g.$



Showcase your impact with Ocean Conservancy CleanSwell mobile app



Photo of a coastal cleanup: Ocean Conservancy

The April 2020 Rotarian highlighted the <u>Plastic Trap</u> - both the problems arising from our use of plastic and the solutions. Beach and community plastics clean-ups are popular Rotary projects. The Ocean Conservancy encourages Rotarians to add the impact of your project to the worldwide International Coastal Cleanup by using the Clean Swell mobile app, which you can <u>download for free</u>. ESRAG began publicizing the International Coastal Cleanup in late summer, 2018. Since then, Rotary and Rotaract Clubs from seven countries have uploaded the impact of 33 cleanups with the Ocean Conservatory. In just 18 months, 1,200 Rotary volunteers have collected 13,658 pounds of trash, including foam and plastic carry-out containers, straws, cutlery, and bottle caps, food wrappers, and cigarette butts.

For more information on ESRAG: https://www.esrag.org/



The bird watching community in South Africa has flocked together to support specialist bird guides during the lockdown.

BirdLife South Africa, a not-for-profit organisation focused on bird conservation, has set up a **Community Guide Relief Fund** to financially support guides who are now without an income because of the lockdown.

In just a week, the fund has raised over R120,000 for 30 guides. In addition, birders sent an outpouring of support and adoration for the guides as champions of conservation and experts in their field.

https://www.birdlife.org.za/birdlife-guide-relief-fund/

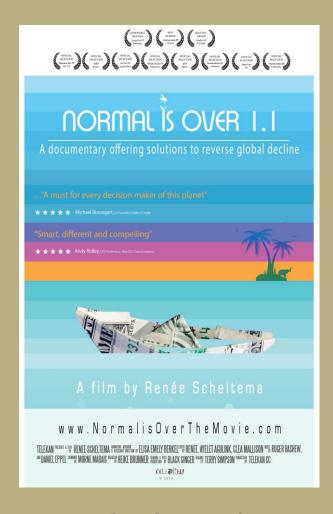
Can the 'super year for nature' be salvaged? Reflecting on Earth Day 2020 By Saiia

(The South African Institute of International Affairs)



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https://saiia.org.za/research/can-the-super-year-fornature-be-salvaged-reflecting-on-earth-day-2020/



Award-winning documentary about humanity's WISEST response to climate change, species extinction, the depletion of critical natural resources and income inequality. This independent documentary examines how our economic and financial system connects all these issues, and offers SOLUTIONS, which could be implemented immediately.

-Renee Scheltema

Watch Trailer

WATCH HERE

NORMAL IS OVER THE MOVIE, THE <u>NEW</u> UPDATED VERSION IS NOW AVAILABLE FROM THE <u>WEBSITE</u>. (English version only-..for now..)

Stay home, safe, healthy and take care.

Till next time....

Tanya