

Coronavirus CivActs Campaign captures rumours and perceptions among communities to eliminate information gaps between the government, the media, NGOs, businesses and the public. By providing the public with facts, these coronavirus bulletins aim to create a better understanding of the needs regarding coronavirus and to debunk rumours before they can do more harm.

Health & Safety of Healthcare Workers during COVID-19

COVID-19 has put an immense strain on local stockpiles of personal protective equipment (PPE) and the increase in demand is showing no signs of slowing down as the infection rates peak on a daily basis. In this week's bulletin, we place the microscope on the challenge faced by the medical profession during this pandemic. It's a global crisis and South African doctors' and nurses' lives are on the line. A total of 511 healthcare workers on the frontline of the pandemic have tested positive. Of those, 146 have recovered, 26 are hospitalised and two have lost their lives - prompting nursing union DENOSA to down tools and protest.



Some emergency medical staff have been forced to create their own PPE out of plastic and masking tape. Image: www.groundup.org.za

Questions → Answers



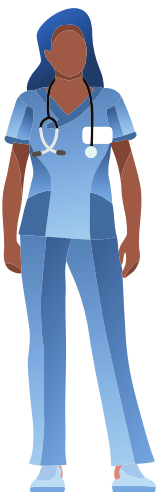
What pieces of personal protective equipment (PPE) is the government supposed to provide nurses and doctors in state clinics and hospitals according to regulations?

The state is obligated to provide a full complement of PPE including a mask, gloves, aprons, goggles, shoe covers and head covers.



Is it true that there's a shortage of PPE in all provinces of SA?

The Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal, Northern Cape and Limpopo appear to be the hardest hit.



Are healthworkers planning to go on strike?

There have been threats of strikes but no action has been taken yet. Some of the demands from unions include the unavailability of transport for nurses, especially those working at night. They are also calling for a Risk Allowance to mitigate against the threat of infection.

Designated Hospitals

Gauteng

Charlotte Maxeke Hospital, Parktown
Steve Biko Hospital, Pretoria
Tembisa Hospital, Tembisa

KwaZulu-Natal

Greys Hospital, Pietermaritzburg

Limpopo

Polokwane Hospital, Polokwane

Mpumalanga

Rob Ferreira Hospital, Nelspruit

Northern Cape

Kimberley Hospital, Kimberley

North West

Klerksdorp Hospital, Klerksdorp

Eastern Cape

Livingstone Hospital, Port Elizabeth

Free State

Pelonomi Hospital, Bloemfontein

Western

Cape

Tygerberg Hospital, Cape Town

Useful Numbers

- GBV Command Centre: 0800 428 428 / *120*7867#
- Persons with disabilities, SMS 'help' to 31531
- Women Abuse Helpline: 0800 150 150
- Child line: 0800 055 555SAPS
- Crime Stop: 0860 10111 / SMS Crime Line: 32211
- National AIDS Helpline: 0800 012 322
- Suicide Helpline: 0800 567 567
- National Department of Health:
[jhhttps://www.health.gov.za](https://www.health.gov.za)
- National Institute of Communicable Diseases:
<https://www.nicd.ac.za>
- Coronavirus Hotline: 0800 029 999
- No data no problem: <https://coronavirus.datafree.co>