



COVID-19 RESPONSE



Our Vision

the creation of a skilled workforce for the health and social development needs of all south africans.



Our Mission

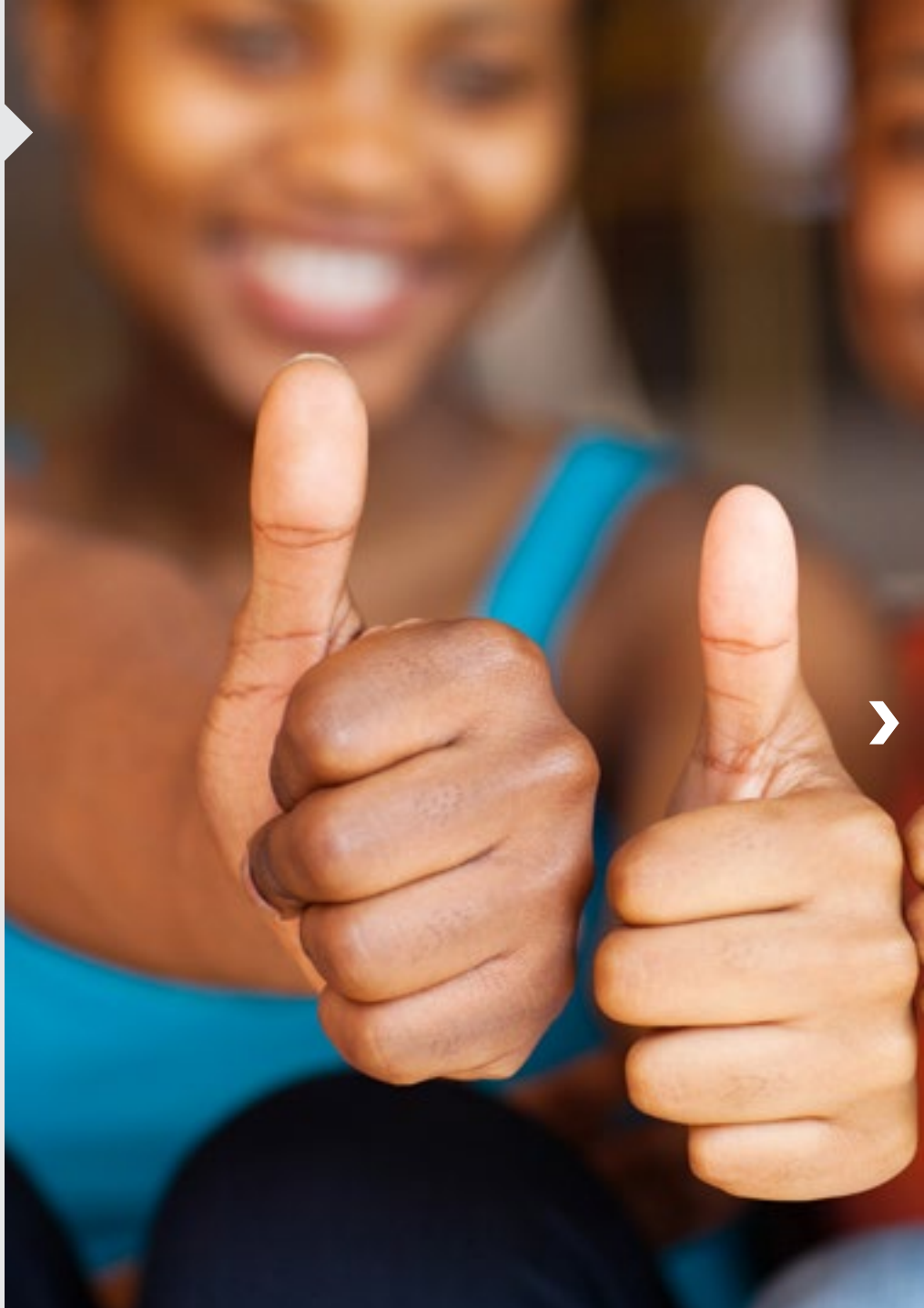
the health and welfare sector education and training authority (HWSETA) endeavours to create an integrated approach to the development and provision of appropriately skilled health and social development workers, to render quality services comparable to worldclass standards.



Our Values

the HWSETA holds dear the following core values:

- integrity
- transparency
- transformation
- service excellence





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Foreword by the Chief Executive Officer

Dear valued HWSETA stakeholder,

We have been put on a path of unimagined challenges which has left no one untouched. The world is caught in a vicious storm; however, now is the time that we must find strength to raise our sails and navigate through it.

It is with these words that I introduce our *Annual Project Review Journal* which places the spotlight on how the Health and Welfare sector continues to fight the COVID-19 pandemic head on, working hard for a safer tomorrow.

HWSETA has taken up arms - since the start of the pandemic and particularly after President Cyril Ramaphosa's National State of Disaster declaration in March 2020, we have mobilised our efforts towards establishing tangible and sustainable COVID-19 interventions within the sector.

Following the NSD declaration, the HWSETA Board almost immediately allocated R100 million, of which R70 million was released on 2 April 2020. Our funding reached a total R90 million which encompassed various initiatives and projects highlighted in this edition of the *Project Review Journal*.

These initiatives reached the Health and Social Development sectors and included skills development and upskilling, education, awareness, data collection, screening, health promotion, internships, all of which related to COVID-19.

The initiatives have positively impacted our sectors, and in some instances, continue to do so. The adage "strength in numbers" holds particularly true during this time. Our partnership with government, sector employees, NGOs, tertiary education and training agencies, and others, has proven to be invaluable and continues to strengthen our efforts.



Mrs Elaine Brass
CEO, HWSETA

However, it is not only these partnerships that have fortified our work; the assistance of the unemployed youth, as emphasised in the *Project Review Journal* has had a meaningful impact in reaching communities across the country.

This edition also showcases how HWSETA drove forward its mandate in skilling the sectors in time of crisis. We are supporting our healthcare workers with psychosocial and trauma counselling, particularly as they continue to deal with challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic on a daily basis.

I invite you to peruse this *Project Review Journal* which gives an important glimpse into how our sectors continue to mobilise and fight an unprecedented foe, often under enormous pressure and personal sacrifice.

On a personal note, I would also like to thank the HWSETA Members of the Board, the management team and employees for keeping us adrift in these stormy waters. Your contribution is immense and invaluable.

Yours sincerely,



Elaine Brass
Chief Executive Officer
HWSETA



“The world is caught in a vicious storm; however, now is the time that we must find strength to raise our sails and navigate through it.”



Unemployed Youth Contribute to COVID-19 Health Education Campaign

The HWSETA partnered with Pax (Pty) Ltd to recruit, train and deploy 750 unemployed youth over a six-month period; this in an effort to educate the socially vulnerable located in South Africa.

Initially the HWSETA envisaged that this project, aptly called the 750AMPED campaign would take place across all nine provinces, however due to challenges related to COVID-19, it was decided the focus must be on the five major provinces with the highest rate of infections.

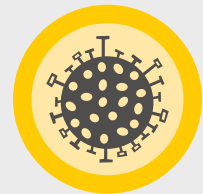


Objectives

The objective of 750AMPED campaign was to contribute to the country's COVID-19 health education campaign. This campaign has gathered and analysed data from five provinces on the COVID-19 pandemic with a focus at areas where practising social distancing was difficult.

It also captured information such as people's attitude, perceptions, and knowledge of COVID-19.

The campaign had two components, the first understanding the number **750**: fighting the coronavirus **7** days of the week; using **5** basic protective measures; and the journey towards **0** infections.



Second, to equip communities with sufficient information about the virus – what it is, how they can identify it from the onset and how they can assist in controlling its spread.

The locations were chosen based on what is regarded as socially vulnerable areas. A scientific methodology was used from the South African Risk and Vulnerability Atlas, an online resource which serves to provide data, tools, visualisations, and analytics in support of planning and responding to activities of the COVID-19 pandemic in the country.

The South African Risk and Vulnerability Atlas locations were based on the CSIR SA informal hotspots and CSIR transmission potential of COVID-19.

A total of 750 fieldworkers were recruited and the following criteria were used:

Minimum Grade 12/Matric Certificate;

The applicant must be between the ages of 21-30 years.

Applicants must be unemployed;

Applicants must have completed their studies and be readily available to commence work; and

Applicants must be residing in the specific focal areas (location/suburb/town/city).

The Campaign

The 750AMPED national campaign rollout phase took place in June 2020, with an initial series of training aimed at ensuring the fieldworkers were properly equipped for their roles.

150 of the recruited learners were identified as data capturers and would assist in the data collection from online with research, all participants underwent training on the following:

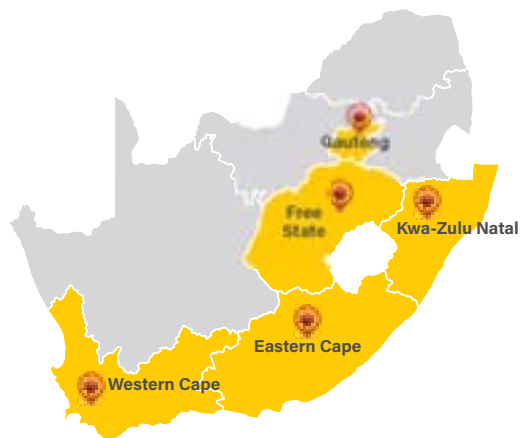
- Understanding the importance of the 750AMPED campaign and how it relates to their work;
- COVID-19 knowledge and perspective and how to interact around the virus;
- Understanding the data collection approach and the roles and responsibilities of various participants in the campaign project;
- Improved and uniform understandings of the terms, definitions, and indicators in the 750AMPED campaign; and
- Completing the project questionnaire accurately.





Before the full rollout of the 750AMPED campaign, a pre-launch was executed to understand the project approach, particularly refining the implementation process. Information gathered during this pilot was used to guide the Pax Advisory team and ultimately the rollout of the national training across 45 locations.

Their locations for the pre-launch were Gauteng (Pan Africa Mall, Alexandra); Free State (Hoffman Square- Bloemfontein CBD); Kwa-Zulu Natal (Kwa-V Umlazi – Shopping Centre); Eastern Cape (Gillwell Taxi Retail Park); and lastly Western Cape (Khayelitsha Hospital).



Following the pre-launch, the learners were deployed on the ground with minor amendments due to the impact of lockdown on taxi rank and shopping centre engagement. More traffic was redirected to townships as commuting was restricted. All learners also received tablets with data allowances.

As of 19 September 2020, 4950 pre-test and 2432 post-test questionnaires were captured on the online portal.

Reaching a Million South Africans

This 750AMPED national campaign has reached more than one million individuals in South Africa, directly and indirectly. The value of the publicity coverage is more than R10 million with broadcasting exposure of over 20 million

people over this period. 750 AMPED was also represented in the dialogue that President Cyril Ramaphosa had with young people on 16 June 2020, which was broadcast on various news platforms.

The campaign website has been completed in the following languages: English, Afrikaans, isiZulu, isiXhosa, and Sesotho. The app was launched on September 2020 as well as a free SMS line for project related queries and COVID-19 information. The research component started in May and has continued throughout the lifecycle of the project.

The HWSETA is proud to form part of the 750AMPED campaign.





HWSETA Trains EMS and FPS for COVID-19 Response

Batlisisa = *TRACE IT, LOCATE IT AND CONTAIN IT*



Batlisisa is a campaign that was originally designed in March 2020 by Powerdigm Consulting, HWSETA and the Free State Department of Health (FSDOH) to facilitate training of 1063 Community Healthcare Workers as Contact Tracers for COVID-19 cases.

However, following a visit to the Free State by the Minister of Health, Dr Zweli Mkhize on 2 April 2020, the focus of the Batlisisa Campaign was shifted to the training of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and Forensic Pathology Services (FPS) personnel.

This change in focus came following a needs analysis by the Minister and his team during the visit. The Batlisisa Project was funded under Special Projects which were established by the HWSETA in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. It also underlines HWSETA's goal of bridging the skills gap in the Health and Welfare sector.

After the launch of the project and the overwhelming positive response by FSDOH, the HWSETA funded an additional 450 health personnel and undertakers as it became evident that they too needed the training as part of the value chain.

Batlisisa Project Training Programme

The training programme comprises of five modules: Module 1 is an interactive lecture that covers Introduction to COVID-19 that includes the Clinical Perspective of COVID-19, and the EMS Procedures in COVID-19.

This was presented at the ICAM studio, based at the FSDOH's Bloemfontein head office which maintains online contact with participants located in various EMS Regional Centres across the five regions of the province. At the completion of Module 1 the participants also participated in an online assessment on the course material.

Modules 1-4 were presented online via tablets, laptops and smartphones. Facilitated by Batlisisa-appointed coordinators, the participants went through online material as they attended classes at the regional Centres. Where applicable, participants participated in the course using their allocated devices at their own convenience. These modules were presented over a six-month period with each being allocated 6 hours of eLearning.

The training programme modules comprised:

- Module 2. Personal Protective Equipment



- Module 3. Decontamination and Infection Control, including Burials
- Module 4. Clinical Management
- Module 5. Legal and Regulatory requirements

At the completion of each eLearning module, the participants were required to take a one-hour assessment based on the content. It was compulsory for the participant to obtain a pass mark on a module in order for the system to allow them to continue to the next module.

The Batlisisa Campaign is grateful for the overwhelming support of Mme Montseng Tsiu, Free State MEC for Health who officially opened the first session in April 2020. Dr David Motau, the Head of Department of Health who was also very instrumental in ensuring maximum participation of the participants and providing resources and logistical support for the training.

Further Training and Research

At the behest of the FSDOH and in consultation with HWSETA a specialised eLearning course was developed for undertakers that included all five modules presented in one session.



This course was initially presented to undertakers in all the regions of the Free State Province in May 2020. Some undertakers enrolled and completed this course over the extended period as it was available (online) up to July 2020. A total of 428 undertakers has since registered for the course.

Batlisisa also conducted learner research, before and after their training, to assess how the teaching of Knowledge, Attitude and Behaviour and Professional Practice of the EMS officials impacted them.

Although the campaign seems to have benefited the participants in their understanding of the COVID-19 against their responsibilities, research indicated that there is a great need for emotional support for EMS officials during the pandemic and other high-pressure events like the holiday season.

This Batlisisa Campaign also strives to advance the agenda of the National Skills Development Strategy (NSDS III) and Human Resource Development Strategy of South Africa.

Of the participants that enrolled for the project,

**98% are black;
45,5% are female;
21% are youth.**

A significant number of participants had to undergo initial training in handling IT gadgets and navigating the course online. Here, the Batlisisa Campaign also contributed towards the advancement of the country's National Strategy for harnessing the 4th Industrial Revolution.

Hand Sanitiser Project in North West



HWSETA and Ruo & Rui Medicals (Pty) Ltd partnered with LUONTHOUGHT, a non-profit organisation for the packaging and distribution of hand sanitisers in support of COVID-19 pandemic.

The project was funded by the HWSETA as part of its COVID-19 response project which focused on rural development. It commenced on 29 April 2020 and was based in Khuma township, Klerksdorp in North West Province. This project was named "phepha" meaning cleanliness and is aligned with the promotion and education on health and hygiene.

LUONTHOUGHT selected 60 participants for the six-month project which was designed to meet the demands for hand sanitisers, supplying it to local business entities and other governmental structures. The Phepa Project also aimed to activate the local economy within Dr KK District Municipality in Klerksdorp, providing access to the communities at a low and affordable price and income as part of a long-term sustainability plan.

The Phepa Project also provided external training to participants to add value beyond its scope; the training is NQF accredited and included firefighting (six candidates), OHS (six candidates) training and drivers licenses (six candidates).

This project officially ended on the 29 October 2020. Unfortunately, due to minimal capital raised, LUONTHOUGHT can only continue with a minimum number of people to further develop continued operations and preserve employment opportunities.

Each candidate was issued with a certificate of completion at the closing awards ceremony to add a sense of achievement.



Higher Health COVID-19 Campaign & Skills Training Programme



In response to the increasing number of COVID-19 cases in South Africa, national agency Higher Health and its partners decided to concentrate on Post School Education and Training (PSET) that focuses on the pandemic.

Higher Health worked on behalf of the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) with Universities South Africa (USAf) and the South African College and Principals Organisation (SACPO). HWSETA also partnered with Higher Health to support initiatives to combat the impact of COVID-19.

The strategic intent of the project was to strengthen students' graduate competency, ultimately realising a skilled workforce. The project included skills development and capacitation at universities and TVET college stakeholders.

The project included academic and non-academic, staff student support structures, student leadership and students. The project focused on Gender Based Violence (GBV), mental health and other general health, wellness and social issues including COVID-19.

Higher Health also collaborated with Department of Health (DOH), The National Institute For Communicable Diseases Of South Africa (NICD), other government departments, private sector, other national initiatives which included technical public health specialists.



Additionally, Higher Health partnered with communication specialists and public information channels including mass media, social media, digital media to deliver an intensive and empowering COVID-19 campaign for aimed at PSET.

Milestones

Higher Health together with the DOH and NICD developed the sectoral guidelines on COVID-19. These guidelines enabled institutions to create and implement their individual plans in synergy with policies of the NICD and the DHET, DOH and Department of Employment and Labour (DOL).

Simultaneously Higher Health`s technical public health task team conducted a literature review from all the available sources to update the PSET guidelines.

Higher Health and the NICD hosted two successful live webinars on 20 March 2020 and 1 April 2020 that capacitated over 1200 attendees from diverse disciplines of academia, student support and student leadership. The two-hour live online webinars emulated a classroom setting.

A curriculum on COVID-19 was also designed covering chapters such as Epidemiology, laboratory testing, clinical presentation, and management of suspected cases and many more.

Curriculum development

Following the success of the two online webinars Higher Health conducted further training of different disciplines and sub-sectors through a series of tailor-made webinars which covered these stakeholders:

- TVET Sector;
- Academia of Student Support Services, Campus Security, Union Representatives;
- Campus Health Care, Occupational Health, Employee Wellness;
- Higher Health Peer Mentors; and
- Higher Health Peer Educators & Student Leadership.

Further to these curriculums, Higher Health developed specific guidelines, protocols and algorithms for the different sub-sectors which were consulted and capacitated through these tailor-made live webinars.

Higher Health and HWSETA also introduced COVID-19 within the second curriculum and rollout through an established on-campus extensive peer to peer programme. The essence of the Higher Health Second Curriculum was to present students in all years with opportunities for learning and personal growth outside the formally accredited courses First Curriculum.

Within the Second Curriculum, students will be encouraged to complete a self-assessment risk screening toolkit related to HIV, TB, STIs, sexual and reproductive health, mental health and GBV.

A COVID-19 self-assessment risk screening toolkit was also developed and rolled out as part of the second curriculum peer-to-peer education programme.

Higher Health as a key extension of government`s higher education and training programme, has utilised its position as an authentic and trusted news source and has identified broadcast media, especially social media as the primary/ reliable tool to consume information on the spread and impact of COVID-19.

Additionally, Higher Health worked with campus radio stations and community radio stations across the country to spread the word about COVID-19.





Talent Brand Joins HWSETA in FMCG Sector Protect Food Security

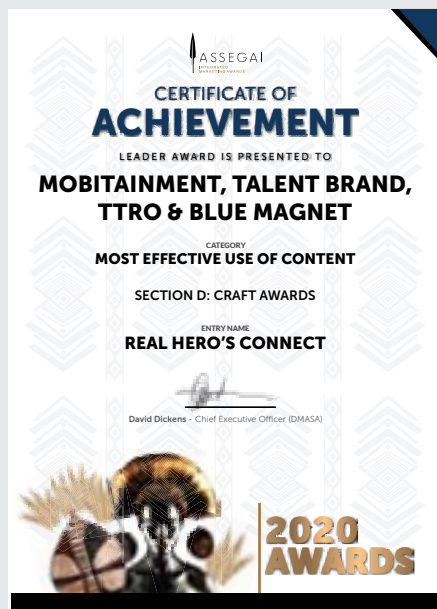


Talent Brand played a key role in ensuring South Africa's ongoing food security in the face of the pandemic by producing a series of animation videos to educate essential workers on COVID-19.

Around the world, the availability of foodstuff became a major concern; in fact, it was estimated that 265 million people could face acute hunger by the end of 2020. The world has never before encountered such a great hunger emergency – and the behaviour of consumers driven to stockpiling and panic buying at the beginning of the lockdown showed that the fear of 'going without' had deep roots.

Although South Africa is self-sufficient in terms of food supply, we still rely on global supply chains for our raw materials. The manufacturing sector's practice of producing product three to nine months in advance (and, in the case of agricultural procurement, where commitment to farmers is seasonal, planned a year ahead in some instances) placed further pressure on the system.

The right to food is enshrined in the South African Constitution, which is why the sector worked hard to protect its employees. With this in mind, HWSETA embarked on an educational campaign to ensure that essential workers are aware of the COVID-19 virus and understand how to maintain their own health and prevent its spread.



As part of this campaign, the SETA awarded discretionary grants to entities that may be able to help disseminate this vital message. Talent Brand is a recipient of one of these discretionary grants. “This is a critical issue which affects all of us,” comments the company’s Managing Director Jo Watt. The organisation - which has a well established reputation in the strategic talent acquisition space – therefore decided to harness its specialist knowledge of the FMCG sector, honed over many years and for which Watt has a particular passion, to educate essential workers in this space. “We have worked with most of South Africa’s major FMCG companies, and therefore have an insider’s view of the industry’s challenges and priorities,” Watt pointed out.

Working with Mobitainment and TTRO, Talent Brand applied these insights to a series of animated videos, crafted to provide essential workers in manufacturing, retail and supply chain industries with information about how to identify COVID-19 symptoms, and how to protect themselves and family members from the spread.

The initiative forms part of a comprehensive plan developed by the HWSETA to assist with COVID-19 efforts. “To date, HWSETA invested millions into varieties of projects. Making the correct information accessible was an integral part of the plan and we are very proud of this project and of the quality of the videos. There has been a lack of information available in many languages and we hope that these videos will assist greatly in arming South Africans with the precautionary measures they need to take to stay safe,” says Elaine Brass, CEO of HWSETA.

“The HWSETA is proud of the partnership with Talent Brand and we look forward to seeing the impact of this project,” she adds. The animated videos – each under three minutes long – are available in English, Afrikaans, Zulu and Setswana, and aimed to dispel myths about the spread of the virus and address critical issues such as physical distancing, when to self-isolate, and how and when to get tested. Watt reports that the content for the videos was created in consultation with key players in the food manufacturing industry, including the likes of Tiger Brands, National Brands, CCBSA, and Distell, to ensure that the messaging is on target.



As an incentive to watch and share the content, users who finished watching could enter into a daily draw to earn a share of R3 000 worth of airtime. Talent Brand partnered with TTRO and Mobitainment to produce the videos. Candice Goodman, Managing Director of Mobitainment, noted that online videos are the most effective channel for transmitting information: according to a February 2020 report by We Are Social, 98% of all South Africans watch online videos.

“This case study proved that technology is a great enabler and can be harnessed for the greater societal good.” Goodman explains that the use of interactive video makes it possible to gauge viewers’ knowledge, rewarding them once they display a thorough understanding of the subject. “Meanwhile, because the videos can be shared on WhatsApp, the most popular app in South Africa, we maximized the reach of this engaging, educational and rewarding content.

“But perhaps most importantly, this is an example of solving local problems with local solutions. We’ve addressed issues such as the cost of data by ensuring that the data used to watch the videos is reverse billed, so that the essential worker doesn’t incur any costs.”

This initiative won The Most Effective Use of Content at the Craft Awards in 2020.



Training of Healthcare Professionals in Response to COVID-19



The COVID-19 pandemic has necessitated the urgent upskilling of all healthcare professionals in the screening, diagnosis, testing, treatment and overall management of patients infected with the virus, simultaneously protecting and maintaining their wellbeing as well as colleagues and families' safety against infection.

Through the Foundation for Professional Development's (FPDs) proactive approach, the first Coronavirus Conference for Healthcare Professionals was organised at the CSIR in Pretoria on 24 and 25 February 2020.

Presentations from the conference were converted into an online COVID-19 course called the FPD COVID-19 for Healthcare Professionals course and was aimed at a range of healthcare professionals in South Africa. It was accredited for 12 Continuing Professional Development (CPD) points by the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA). The online course was presented by HWSETA, FPD, the University of Pretoria (UP), the South African Medical Association, and the South African Public Health Medicine Association.

The course was aimed at all healthcare professionals that will be in contact with COVID-19 patients and with a need to upskill their knowledge and skills to manage patients effectively and safely.

The interest in the FPD COVID-19 for Healthcare Professionals (HCP) course was exceptional. The first 1000 participants registered within the first two weeks of the course launching.

The COVID-19 for HCPs (version 1) course was offered to healthcare professionals even before the first case had been reported in South Africa.

In view of the developments since the first launch, material was updated as a matter of urgency. The COVID-19 for HCPs (version 2) course featured updated study material and was launched in the second week of May. Again, many healthcare workers showed interest in the course which took approximately 12 hours to complete.



Participants have three months to complete the training and the course entailed:

- The dynamics of the early outbreak of COVID-19 infections in China to further spread of the virus throughout the world;
- COVID-19 knowledge and perspective and how to interreact around the virus;
- The physics of airborne and droplet transmission and the role of infection control in limiting the spread and in containment of infectious diseases;
- The phases of a pandemic and the appropriate responses;
- The key activities required in surveillance of and containment of COVID-19;
- Different types of protective equipment focussing on N95 and surgical masks and its role and relative effectiveness in protection against COVID-19;
- Demonstrating how to collect nasopharyngeal and oropharyngeal swabs for COVID-19 testing;
- The different treatment modalities for mild, moderate and severe COVID-19 cases;
- The management of adverse events and identified high-risk cases of COVID-19 infections;
- The indications for mechanical ventilation and explanation of the potential pitfalls pre-, during and post intubation; and
- Relating COVID-19 to other Influenza and coronavirus infections, compare it with ordinary "flu" and analyse and compare the lessons learnt from SARS and MERS.

At the closure of the programme, registrations were over 4600 and still growing, interest was being maintained with new registrations taking place daily. This provided a clue to the need for reliable information regarding the COVID-19 pandemic across the healthcare sector.

Certificates were issued to participants and positive feedback has been received from healthcare providers.





Training of OHS Staff in Response to COVID-19



The Foundation for Professional Development (FPD) has a twenty-year track record in developing health care and other professionals in sub-Saharan Africa. It is an indigenous South African private institution of Higher Education with a vision to build a better society through education and development, and a mission to catalyse social change through developing people, strengthening systems, and providing innovative solutions.

FPD had originally planned to present a conference on COVID-19 in the workplace in March 2020, however, the restriction on large gatherings prevented this event from taking place.

Through the support from HWSETA, the educational materials were converted into an eLearning programme and a brand new *COVID-19 in the Workplace* eLearning short course was launched on 1 April 2020 targeting South African business. The course was open to anyone that is responsible for managing a workforce, implementing, and amending policies and procedures or persons that are involved in planning, staffing, organising, leading, directing and controlling activities.

In total 1644 people enrolled for this course between March and April 2020. This online learning takes approximately six-to-eight hours to complete. Students had three weeks to complete the training.

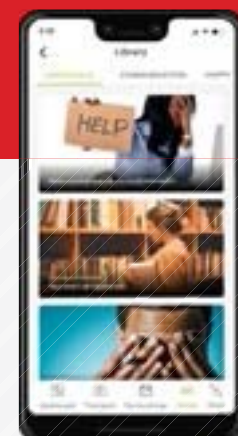


FPD implemented a system to send online participants data and worked with the DHET to customise the online course to ensure that their policy rules and directives were incorporated and adjusted the course material and assessment for the workshop training. This met the requirement of the project rollout plan and implementation of the courses followed shortly thereafter.

FPD made further adjustments to the face-to-face workshop training assessment to accommodate those staff that weren't well versed in English reading well. The multiple-choice questions (MCQ) and answers were read aloud in several languages and the participants filled in circles that corresponded to the correct MCQ answer. The OHS staff have also met the workshop training number and is expected this goal will met in the foreseeable future.



Online Therapy Sessions for Health Workers



The pandemic has significantly impacted the daily lives of individuals, restricting their movement and social interaction with others. These necessary precautions have exhausted the mental and emotional state of people and caused a significant degree of mental distress.

This has been no different for healthcare and frontline workers who have seen the devastating effects of the pandemic. They have been at the centre of the response to

effectively curbing the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, overwhelmed and overworked and most have suffered from psychosocial distress.

HWSETA partnered with Syked, an online therapy session provider, offering therapy sessions to support healthcare workers during the pandemic period. The project, was implemented over six-month period throughout the country's nine provinces.

Issues were also identified during the sessions and include but are not limited to:



Anxiety about contracting the **virus**



Irritability



Anxiety about infecting family with the **virus**



Staff shortages



Longer working hours



Separation from family



Burnout and fatigue

The health practitioners who sought support from Syked indicated they were overwhelmed with the pressure of providing care to patients during the pandemic. Providing a balance between their roles as caring professionals and family members was also a shared concern.

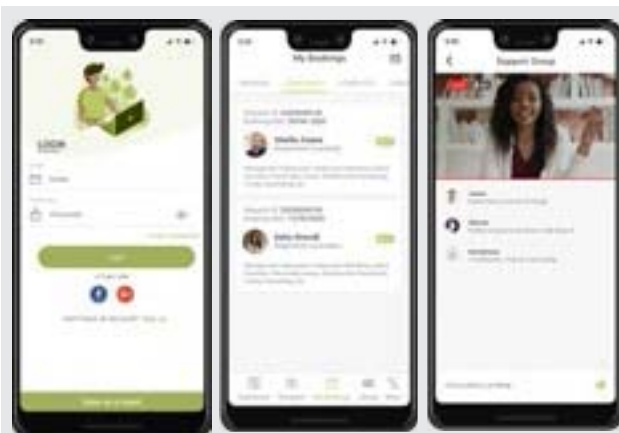
The therapy sessions placed emphasis on emotional self-care, developing empathy for oneself and others and emotional strengthening whilst continuing with their roles as healthcare workers.

Healthcare practitioners were also privy to self-help material on the platform which helped in capacitating them with effective interpersonal capabilities. For severe issues experienced by health workers specialised sessions are provided by clinical psychologists which cost R499 per session.

Counselling is voluntary which means there has been a slow movement in the number of health workers who have accessed the service.

In response to the above, HWSETA engaged with various public sector health departments across all provinces to encourage health workers to make use of the online service.

The private sector was also engaged as they are also facing the same challenges. To date 51 healthcare workers have made use of the Syked therapy sessions.





Rural Communities Help Fight COVID-19

The HWSETA partnered with the Afribiz Foundation and Ruo and Rui Medicals to take the fight to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Afribiz Foundation and Ruo and Rui Medicals specialise in training rural communities in making hand-produced medical products.

HWSETA funded the training of 7 (seven) cooperatives, NGOs and Community Development Centres. These stakeholders are producing much needed equipment in the fight against COVID-19. Each cooperative is made up of 60 women who have little or no schooling and come from households with little or no income.

The HWSETA through the Afribiz Foundation has rolled out a sanitary towel manufacturing programme in Mpumalanga which focuses on four key areas: Pienaar, Barberton, Nkomazi and Waterval Boven. These areas

received sanitation training and education during six-month period.

**This resulted in the creation of
240 jobs,
as well as financial and job security
for the trainees in trying times.**

Additionally, the HWSETA rolled out programmes in KwaZulu-Natal - in rural areas such as Msinga, Amandawe, Umbumbulu and Mzumbe – and reached the Eastern Cape's Khalankomo, Mdantsane, Matatiele and Mount Ayliff. The programmes also extended to include Khayelitsha in the Western Cape as well as Vryberg and Mafikeng in Northwest and Mamitwa in Limpopo through various partnerships.





The programmes specialised in providing training for the manufacture of 100% natural soap, body, face masks, lotion, toothpaste as well as reusable sanitary wear for communities at large. It created more than 700 sustainable jobs; with these communities manufacturing 70% ethanol-based hand sanitisers using natural oils and community resources such as raw wood and crafted tools to cure the soap.

Furthermore, HWSETA has funded two Community Development Centres in Msinga and Gauteng; to produce N95 surgical masks. These masks are priced affordably which benefits both Government and the private sector.

As a result of this initiatives, Msinga Clothing Factory, is currently making garments for the Foschini Group in South Africa.



"Our partnership with training providers such as the Afrbiz Foundation and Ruo and Rui medicals not only improves overall to health and wellbeing but also protects vulnerable communities through education. Importantly, this partnership supports co-operatives in our country improving the financial status of many,"

says Elaine Brass, CEO of HWSETA.



HWSETA Funds National Emergency Health with Community Chest



In March 2020, a national disaster was declared in South Africa and strict lockdown was enforced. The lockdown limited movement and marooned the working poor leading to inevitable economic pressure and the associated social ills.

According to a report that was presented by the National Department of Health in April 2020, South Africa had an eight-stage approach to managing the COVID-19 pandemic.

During the initial stages of this programme, South Africans were focused on stage 5 (identifying hotspots and spatial monitoring) and stage 6 (increasing access to medical care).

During these stages, community transmission of the disease was very high and subsequently Community Chest established a platform called the Coalition of the Committed with efforts of government, corporates and grassroots-level civil society organisations to combat the consequences of the pandemic.

Coalition of the Committed's main purpose was to address the immediate challenges that COVID-19 presents to communities and civil society organisations and was the first responder in communities to facilitate relief efforts by limiting community transmission as much as possible, using direct interventions such as testing and screening as well as food relief.

HWSETA has been instrumental in this process, with its assistance, the Coalition of the Committed has grown into a forward-looking movement aimed at strategically rebuilding South Africa. As a movement it is working towards achieving the following vision: “To establish the Coalition of the Committed as a progressive convener of a socially conscious citizenry”.

To date, the Coalition has impacted over 400 to 500 citizens through food relief and healthcare programmes across nine provinces and into 71 local municipalities. Community Chest has also targeted health initiatives and collaborative responses to slowdown the transmission of COVID-19, especially amongst the most vulnerable communities.

“This platform was designed to support various vulnerable communities through facilitating food relief and healthcare provision. However, we could not turn a blind eye on one of the most overlooked communities, which are the homeless living in our cities. The challenges this community have exasperated during the national lockdown are unthinkable trauma.

“Even though offering direct support to the homeless is not the core function of Community Chest, our organisation is called to serve those in need and therefore we have responsibility to ensure the safety and well-being of this community as far as possible,” says Craig Kingsley, Head of Business Development at Community Chest.

Therefore, Community Chest and HWSETA agreed to reallocate some project funds to provide nutrient-rich food products and key healthcare products and services to the homeless community in Cape Town.

As a result, the Coalition of the Committed was able to support this community through offering:

- A short-term feeding scheme
- COVID-19 testing services
- The distribution of cloth face masks
- The option to undergo HIV tests

Given the dynamic nature of response required to minimise community transmission risk through fortification, the work to be done in particularly vulnerable subsets of communities is critical.



These services were offered to 180 homeless individuals in Cape Town between May and June 2020. The work of the project has been informed by the discontinuous shift of the pandemic and Community Chest is grateful for the support and insights of HWSETA in responding to the needs of communities.



Home-based Carers Conduct Daily Health Education



The pandemic took the world by storm and in response to this, the South African government developed initiatives to try curb the spread of the virus. KwaZulu-Natal together with the Western Cape and Gauteng were amongst the three provinces with the highest rate of infections in the country. As a result, KwaZulu-Natal Progressive Primary Health Care (KZNPPHC) partnered with HWSETA in March 2020 to provide information to communities about the COVID-19 pandemic for a period of 6 months.

The project which HWSETA supported, commenced on 1 April 2020 with the orientation of 120 home-based carers recruited from 14 NPOs. These organisations selected volunteers who were unemployed yet trained in either home-based care, Ancillary Health Care, Community Health Work, or any other health related programme from their databases to ensure they could provide information to communities.

During the orientation, caregivers were taken through the programme and the educational material they had to share

with communities, supplied with forms they had to complete during home visits as well as reporting forms on their activities. They also received personal protective equipment such as masks, sanitisers, face shields and gloves to conduct their work efficiently.

KZNPPHC apprised the KZN Health Department about the project in order to establish partnerships, additionally the caregivers were also introduced to community leaders and local Department of Health (DoH) personnel. Each NPO appointed a supervisor who met with caregivers on a weekly basis to provide reports, challenges and plans for the week ahead. KZNPPHC had meetings with supervisors and did regular field visits for monitoring purposes.

This report included information such as demystifying the COVID-19 pandemic during door-to-door visits during lockdown, knowledge on the virus, how it is spread, signs and symptoms and corrected the myths and misconceptions.

Lastly, it demonstrated the correct ways of practicing personal hygiene such as the hand washing techniques. Regular hand washing was encouraged because not everyone could afford the waterless hand sanitisers as opposed to soap and water. They also emphasised the correct way of wearing masks, encouraging communities to make their own masks.

The caregivers were also supplied with reflector jackets and t-shirts. HWSETA supplied some of these t-shirts together with KZNPPHC to ensure the caregivers were easily identifiable in the community.



“They also emphasised the correct way of wearing masks, encouraging communities to make their own masks.”



The health education visits weren't limited to households; caregivers executed planned campaigns in collaboration with the DoH at pension pay points, malls like Philani Valley, Kwa Mnyandu etc. COVID-19 information pamphlets, written in isiZulu and English, were distributed during these events and provided a source of information for communities to read at their leisure.

In September, close out events were organised for evaluation purposes and caregivers were issued with certificates acknowledging their participation in the project which they greatly appreciated. Events were organised in line with COVID-19 regulations and NPOs were geographically grouped not to exceed 50 at each event. The last event brought together all 14 NPOs and they were also given certificates of appreciation for participating in the programme.





COVID-19 Skills Training Programme in Response to COVID-19



Once the lockdown restrictions were announced by government early in 2020, WITS Health Consortium (WHC) and the National Institute for Occupational Health (NIOH), in consultation with Labour submitted an urgent motivation to HWSETA for a national training programme focusing on frontline health workers, union leadership, shop stewards, health sector managers and occupational health and safety practitioners.

HWSETA was quick to respond given the unique circumstances and showed enormous flexibility and innovation to minimise requirements, without compromising controls and accountability. The training was necessary to prepare a critical mass of people with the requisite skills, and the understanding of COVID-19 processes and systems and to ensure workplaces were ready for the return of workers as restrictions were lifted.

The content of the training programme was developed together with the NIOH and focused on providing practical COVID-19 prevention and systems development skills, competencies and tools for shop stewards, occupational health and safety officers and managers.

Over a period of three months, 25 441 people were trained, in 36 separate sessions, covering over 18 specialist topics with the appropriate skills and competencies. The requisite training was completed before the end of the three months.

The programme was delivered through online using interactive webinars, giving participants the opportunity to really engage with the topics to better understand the virus and how to prevent it spread in workplaces and other public areas.

This was the largest programme delivered in the shortest possible time, covering complex topics to support the rest of the national COVID-19 implementation strategy of government and business. The size and timelines for this programme called for flexibility, innovation and excellent communication and coordination skills.

"The outcome of this programme is immeasurable when looking at potential lives saved, and additional revenue derived by keeping the economy open. Whilst we can't quantify the financial benefit, we are confident that this programme enabled the reopening of the economy knowing that workplaces and businesses will have the trained people to put measures in place to keep workers, business, customers, travellers and others safe", says Sagie Pillay, Chief Operating Officer of Wits Health Consortium.

The initiative was so successful, primarily because of the outstanding partnership and active collaboration between the Unions, NEDLAC, the training institutions, NIOH, HWSETA and WHC.



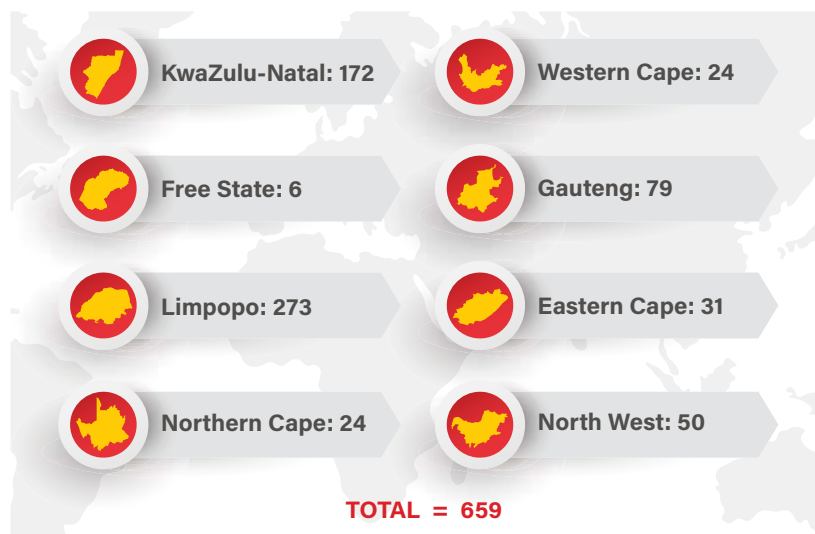
Unemployed Social Workers Graduate for Psycho-Social Response to COVID-19

As the pandemic progressed, the National Department of Health (NDOH) put in place various strategies to protect people and to ensure business continuity. New gaps were identified in the COVID-19 strategy and evidence suggested that many workers, specifically health workers, were experiencing severe stress and burnout.

This all related to massive workloads, and the changing work environments, closure of schools and other lockdown measures. As a result, the Health sector called for psychosocial support for health professionals and support workers. This concern was expressed sharply by the Minister of Higher Education.

To address this need, Department of Health (DoH) and Department of Social Development (DSD) partnered with Wits Health Consortium (WHC) and requested support at short notice. The HWSETA responded proactively and enthusiastically and put in place a national Social Worker Internship Programme. WHC was requested to identify, employ, and deploy 1210 social workers interns across the country to support the health and social development teams to provide a more comprehensive response to the mental health needs of health workers, learners, and other general workers.

Recently qualified unemployed social workers were identified in consultation with both the Departments of Health and Social Development. These unemployed social workers were deployed to areas of need as identified by both departments namely:



In addition, 30 qualified and experienced social workers were provided to serve as supervisors in the various provinces and to ensure the inexperienced social workers gain valuable work experience and good mentorship over the 12 months of their workplace training.

These resources delivered important outcomes such as much needed work experience and practical social work skills to assist the unemployed social workers to become more marketable after their internships.

Also, to hopefully gain employment and provide urgently needed counselling and psychosocial services under supervision in hospital, clinics, institutions for older persons, NGOs working with children, older persons, and people with disabilities to the various categories of workers that are struggling under the pressure of the pandemic.

This in turn will improve the mental health of workers, hence contributing to reduced sick leave and better productivity and lastly creating employment for 1240 unemployed social workers for a period of 12 months, providing stipend to assist individual and families with some income in challenging times.

While it is difficult to quantify the actual outcomes, anecdotal evidence indicates that the programme is making a qualitative difference to compliment the teams working on the ground and more importantly assisting hundreds of people daily to cope with their stress, anxiety, and burnout.

The programme fits completely within the HWSETA mandate. More importantly it makes a meaningful contribution to immediate priorities of the COVID-19 pandemic national strategy while strengthening the ability of organisations and departments to create new employment and prepare individuals with new skills and competencies to respond to the post-COVID-19 needs of our country.



? COVID-19 Awareness

The COVID-19 pandemic in South Africa has reached a record new level driven by the more infectious novel COVID-19 variant, the 501YV2 which was discovered in the country in December 2020. According to scientists, it is set to be the dominant variant, and resulted in the country entering the second wave of the pandemic.

On 17 February 2021 Johnson & Johnson's single-dose COVID-19 vaccine rolled-out in South Africa. The shot is being administered as part of a research study that is targeting up to half a million healthcare workers and marks the first time the vaccine is being deployed outside of clinical trials. The J&J shot, has shown about 57% efficacy in preventing moderate and severe COVID-19 infections in South African trials.

Here is more information you need to know about COVID-19:

What is COVID-19?

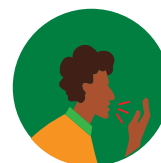
Human Coronaviruses are common throughout the world. There are many different coronaviruses identified in animals but only a small number of these can cause disease in humans.

On 7 January 2020, 'Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2' (SARS-CoV-2) was confirmed as the causative agent of 'Coronavirus Disease 2019' or COVID-19. The majority of the case-patients initially identified were dealers and vendors at a seafood, poultry and live wildlife market in China. Since then, the virus has spread to more than 100 countries, including South Africa.



How is it Transmitted?

The spread of the disease is thought to happen mainly via respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes, similar to how influenza and other respiratory pathogens spread. Thus far, the majority of cases have occurred in people with close physical contact to cases and healthcare workers caring for patients with COVID-19.



COUGH



SNEEZE

Who is More at Risk of Getting Infected with COVID-19?

People of all ages can be infected by the new coronavirus (2019-nCoV). Older people, and people with pre-existing medical conditions (such as asthma, diabetes, heart disease) appear to be more vulnerable to becoming severely ill with the virus.

The WHO advises people of all ages to take steps to protect themselves from the virus such as following good hand hygiene and good respiratory hygiene.





Call COVID-19 Hotline on 08 000 299 99

How Can You Prevent Infection?



Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitiser.



Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.



Avoid close contact with people who are sick.



Stay at home when you are sick and try and keep a distance from others at home.



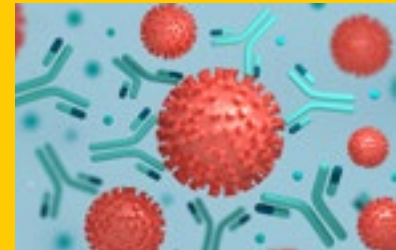
Cover your cough or sneeze with a flexed elbow or a tissue, then throw the tissue in the bin.



Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

What is a Vaccine?

A substance used to stimulate the production of antibodies and provide immunity against one or several diseases, prepared from the causative agent of a disease, its products, or a synthetic substitute, treated to act as an antigen without inducing the disease.



Johnson & Johnson

Why is the Johnson & Johnson Vaccine a Good First Choice for the National Vaccination Programme?

It was tested in a large trial of almost **44 000** people from four continents, of whom **7 000** participants came from South Africa.

It was tested in a large trial of almost 44 000 people from four continents, of whom 7 000 participants came from South Africa.

The study also provided a good picture of how the vaccine works against the new 501YV2 variant, which is dominant in South Africa and currently responsible for around nine in 10 of all COVID-19 infections detected during the second wave.

The South African trial showed that while the Johnson & Johnson vaccine is not going to prevent mild symptoms, it provides 57% protection against moderate-severe disease, 85% protection against severe disease and 100% protection against death.



? COVID-19 Awareness

How does the Vaccine Protect You Against COVID-19?

When injected, the vaccine trains your immune system to fight the virus that causes COVID-19.

The vaccine does not contain the Coronavirus and will not give you COVID-19.

Some mild side effects include tenderness at the injection site, feeling unwell, feverish and a headache for a few days and these are positive signs that the body is mounting an immune response to the Coronavirus.

When you encounter real Coronavirus particles in future, your immune system will be able to disarm the virus so that you either do not fall ill at all or if you do, the symptoms are mild and your chances of being hospitalised or dying are much lower.



FIGHTS
THE VIRUS



DOES NOT
CONTAIN THE
VIRUS

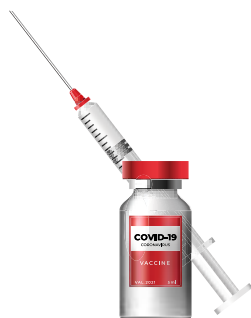
VACCINE
SYMPTOMS



FEVER



HEADACHE



How is the Vaccine Given and When Does Protection Start?

The vaccine is given as a single dose into the upper arm. Protection starts around 10 to 14 days after vaccination and even as early as seven days for severe disease and can also rise to good levels around a month after vaccination.

It is currently the only vaccine available that uses a single dose, while others require two shots.

The researchers are still waiting for further results on how effective the vaccine is at preventing asymptomatic transmission.

It is important you continue to use masks, practise social distancing and good hand hygiene.

If you are a healthcare worker, you still need to wear your personal protective equipment (PPE) and stay vigilant, even after you are vaccinated.

The jab is said to provide

57% protection against moderate-severe disease,

85% protection against severe disease, and **100%** protection against death.



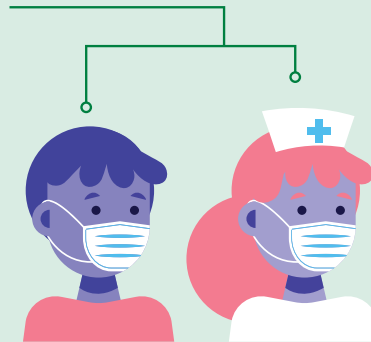


When and how to wear medical masks ?

When to wear medical masks ?

If you are healthy

You only need to wear a mask if you are taking care of a person with suspected COVID-19 infection



If you are sick

Wear a mask if you are coughing, sneezing, or have symptoms compatible with COVID-19 virus infection



How to wear medical masks ?

Masks are effective only when used in combination with frequent hand washing with soap and water



Wash hands before putting on a mask



Make sure you are completely covering your mouth and nose with the mask



Avoid touching the mask while using it. If you do, wash your hands again



Remove the mask from behind the ear, do not touch the front of the mask, discard and wash your hands



HWSETA CONTACT INFORMATION

HEAD OFFICE

17 Bradford Road, Bedfordview, Johannesburg, 011 607 6900

PROVINCIAL OFFICES

Gauteng

563 Old Pretoria Main Road, Midrand Business Park,
Midrand, 011 205 0200

Eastern Cape

Phase 4B, Waverley Office Park, No. 3-33 Phillip
Frame Road, Chiselhurst, East London, 0800 864 478

Limpopo

4A Landross Mare, Polokwane, 015 295 4302/3

Kwa-Zulu Natal

Clifton Place, Ground Floor, 19 Hurst Grove
Musgrave, Durban, 031 202 5972/3

Free State

47 Kellner Street, Bloemfontein, 051 430 2134/78

Mpumalanga

Suite 405 – 407, 4th Floor, Medcen Building,
14 Henshall Street, Nelspruit, 0800 864 478

Northern Cape

Royalyard Park, Unit 17, No. 9 Jacobus Sit Avenue,
Royalglen, Kimberley, 053 831 1338

North West

Suite No.3, Total Mafikeng Complex,
Cnr Nelson Mandela Drive and Shippard Street,
Mafikeng, 018 381 1192

Western Cape

Tijger Park Office Park, Ground Floor, Willie van
Schoor Avenue, Bellville, Cape Town, 021 914 1058

SATELLITE OFFICES

Eastern Cape

PE TVET College, 139 Russell Road, Richmond Hill,
041 509 6332

Free State

Flavius Mareka TVET College, Mphohadi Campus,
Corner Tang Street, 0800 864 478

Mpumalanga

Gert Sibande TVET College, 11 Mel Mentz Street,
Ermelo, 017 811 1752

North West

Taletso TVET College, Leah Mangope Highway,
Lehurutshe, 018 363 3017





17 Bradford Road, Bedfordview, Johannesburg, 2007
Private Bag X15, Gardenview, 2047
Tel: 011 607 6900
Toll Free Number: 0800 864 478
www.hwseta.org.za

