



STAY SAFE WEEKLY

THE FREE STATE PROVINCE'S COVID-19 WEEKLY UPDATE

PROVINCIAL COVID-19 STATISTICS AS OF 5 MAY **CONFIRMED CASES –90 320** **TOTAL DEATHS –3890** **RECOVERIES – 92%**

PROVINCIAL BUILDINGS IMPACTED BY CLOSURES DUE TO COVID-19:
 3 MAY: BLOEMFONTEIN 10111 NOW FULLY OPERATIONAL/
 3 MAY: METPOL BUILDING NOW FULLY OPERATIONAL.
 5 MAY: HEIDEDAL POLICE STATION CLOSED




Free State Covid-19 toll hits national top 3

The National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD) has this week confirmed that the Northern Cape, Free State and North West have the highest provincial rates of new Covid infections and deaths. "The team is working with the respective provinces to ascertain whether the rise in cases can be attributed to cluster outbreaks, and recommend increased testing and contact tracing to contain the situation and limit further spread," says Dr Harry Moultrie, Senior Epidemiologist at the NICD.

First batch of Pfizer vaccine lands in SA

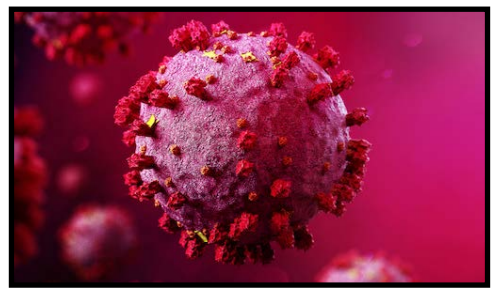


The first batch of Pfizer vaccines landed at the OR Tambo international Airport on Sunday evening. The 325,000 doses have since been sent to the National Control Laboratory for quality assurance. The vaccine will be distributed across the country as soon as it gets the greenlight. South Africa has procured 1, 3-million doses for May; they will be delivered in batches on a weekly basis.

Mantsopa municipal manager loses the battle to Covid-19

This weekend the manager of the Mantsopa Local Municipality in the Free State, Thamae Paulus Masejane lost his life to Covid-19 related complications. Mantsopa Mayor, Mamsie Tsoene, announced that at the time of his death, Masejane had been re-

ceiving treatment for coronavirus at the Bethlehem Medi-Clinic from 12 April. The Free State Provincial Government sends heartfelt condolences to the family, friends and colleagues of Mr Masejane.



CORONAVIRUS 24 HOUR HOTLINE NUMBER: 0800 029 999 COVID-19 WHATSAPP NUMBER: 0600 123456
SISONKE SAFETY NUMBER: 0800 014 856 DEPT OF HEALTH FREE STATE: 0800 535554



Concerns regarding the B.1.617 Variant Circulating in India

Minister of Health, Dr Zwelini Mkhize has noted the public concerns regarding possible importation of the B.1.617 variant circulating in India. “We wish to reassure citizens that there are no direct flights from India and that all our ports of entry employ stringent containment procedures to minimise the importation

of COVID-19. We are currently on high alert to screen passengers and test those who require further assessment,” said Mkhize.

As of 5 May no confirmed cases of the B.1.617 variant had been confirmed in South Africa, Dr Mkhize further confirmed that the Ministerial Advisory

Committee has been engaged to provide advice on the approach to management of travellers from countries that have epidemics driven by variants of concern. Their advice will assist government to determine the next steps forward, which will be announced in due course.

Free State is officially on third wave of covid-19 with exponential rise of daily infections

We are now in the third wave of the outbreak! On 5 May the Department of Health reported a shocking 427 new cases with 60 yet to be allocated to appropriate districts. Mangaung has 200 new cases, Lejweleputswa has

95 new cases and Thabo Mofutsanyana has 53 new cases, Fezile Dabi has 49 new cases and Xhariep has 21 new cases.

The MEC of Health, Montseng Tsiu has taken this opportunity to appreciate

the continuing sterling job of health care workers who continue to fight the pandemic from the frontlines. “We appreciate your efforts and hard work. We trust that our communities will cooperate and lessen your burden” said Tsiu.



Red Cross and UNICEF gear for Provincial vaccine registration roadshow

The South African Red Cross in conjunction with UNICEF and the Free State Provincial Government are preparing to embark on a provincial, vaccine-registration drive. The initiative will run across the Provinces’ four Districts and Metro from 19 –

23 of May 2021. The road show will include a digital-truck screening Covid-19 educational messages and over 170 volunteers assisting citizens over the age of 60 to register for vaccinations through the Electronic Vaccination Data System (EVDS).

‘FS schools the epicentres of province’s Covid19 upsurge’

The South African Democratic Teacher’s Union (SADTU) in the Free State has expressed concern over the number of learners and teachers that account for the province’s latest positive coronavirus cases. The Union in the province has initiated a campaign referred to as “Operation Letsema” to interact with members at school level, advocating the importance of complying with COVID-19 regulations and protocols. SADTU has urged the Education Department, educators, and learners to ensure compliance to Covid-19 regulations.