



FREE STATE PROVINCE

STAY SAFE WEEKLY

THE FREE STATE PROVINCE'S COVID-19 WEEKLY UPDATE

ISSUE 4: 24 May 2021 -30 May 2021

PROVINCIAL COVID-19 STATISTICS AS OF 30 MAY

CONFIRMED CASES - 101 074

TOTAL DEATHS - 4329

RECOVERIES - 88%

VACCINATIONS - 44 420

PROVINCIAL BUILDINGS CLOSED FOR COVID-19 DECONTAMINATION THIS WEEK:

- 25 MAY : MAOKENG DETECTIVES OFFICES
- 26 MAY : DESTEA SERVICE CENTRE IN PARYS CLOSED UNTIL 3 JUNE
- 29 MAY : ZASTRON SAPS



President announces immediate move to Lockdown Alert Level 2

On Sunday night President, Cyril Ramaphosa announced that South Africa will move to lockdown Alert Level 2 WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT!

This comes after the country recorded a sharp increase in Covid-19 infections.

During his address, President Ramaphosa said that: "after several months of low transmission, the number of infections has begun to rise sharply in several parts of the country".

The President announced that the country has seen an average of 3,745 new daily infections.

Health experts attribute the recent surge to social gatherings,

where people are not observing health protocols.

Some of the new restrictions include the following:

- A curfew is imposed from 11pm to 4am.
- Restaurants and bars are mandated to close at 10pm.
- Gatherings are limited to 100 people indoors and 250 people outdoors.
- Funerals are restricted to 100 people
- Night vigils and 'after-tears' functions are not allowed.

Free Staters are encouraged to abide by all of the announced lockdown Alert Level 2 regulations.

National District Hospital at full capacity

National District Hospital is currently operating at full capacity due to the unprecedented surge in Covid-19 cases – patients are now being redirected to the Pelonomi Tertiary and Universitas Academic Hospitals. Health officials at Netcare

are also facing the same bed space crises; this is as Mediclinic has declared that they are also out of beds. The situation is currently fluid as some patients are recovering while others complicate, needing admission into Intensive Care Units.

The Free State Department of Health has been battling the early stages of the Third Wave since 17 April 2021 as Covid-19 cases have continued to increase exponentially since Easter Weekend. The FS Department of Health has encouraged cit-

izens to act responsibly and abide by Covid-19 protocols.

According to the FS Health Spokesperson, Mondli Mvambi: "The biggest instrument or weapon against Covid-19 is behavioural change".

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

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FS Covid-19 INFECTIONS HIT 100 000 MARK!

On Saturday, the Free State Province's Covid-19 infections officially hit the 100 000 mark; since the genesis of the pandemic.

This comes after the Province recorded 619 new infections which pushed the Free State's total Covid-19 cases to 100 135.

The Free State is currently one of four Provinces that have reached the threshold of Third Wave infections – the other provinces include Northern Cape, North West and Gauteng.

On Sunday, President Cyril Ramaphosa announced that it is only a matter of time before the entire country enters the Third Wave.

Free Staters who test positive for Covid-19 are encouraged to self-isolate for a period of 10 days from the time symptoms begin to develop.



GCIS' Vaccine Awareness Truck is Coming to Town!

Next week, the GCIS' vaccine awareness truck will officially be in the Free State.

The truck is part of the GCIS' national campaign to create public awareness, especially amongst persons over 60 years, about the vaccine roll-out.

The GCIS initiative is set to include a digital truck and theatre productions with Covid-19 messaging to be screened

across various Provincial sites including: taxi ranks and malls.

The digital truck will be in the Province from 8 June 2021 to 12 June 2021.

Youth in the Free State are encouraged to assist elders who are 60 years and above to register for

Covid-19 vaccines on the EVDS system. According to the National Institute for

Communicable Diseases this group accounts for almost 60% of all reported Covid-19 related deaths in South Africa.

A report which was presented to Parliament's Portfolio Committee on Health led by Minister Zweli Mkhize, estimates that 40,000 deaths can be prevented by vaccinating 5.5 million people older than 60 years.

FAQ

Question: Should I stop applying basic Covid-19 protection measures once I have the vaccine?

Answer: No, you should continue to use general Covid-19 protection measures (such as wearing a mask and practising social distancing) after being vaccinated. Even though you will be protected from getting severely ill and dying, studies have not yet shown enough data to prove that vaccinated people cannot spread the virus to others. Thus it remains possible that a vaccinated person could spread the virus to others, even if they are not showing symptoms.



FS, NC RECORD ALARMING SURGES IN COVID CASES IN SCHOOLS

The Free State and the Northern Cape education departments have recorded alarming surges in COVID-19 infections in schools in these provinces in the last week. The Free State alone accounts for 174 new cases while the Northern Cape has recorded 264 positive

cases. The Free State Education Department on Sunday said between 24-28 May, 174 learners and 162 teachers tested positive for COVID-19 at 22 schools that have had to close.

- *Eyewitness News*