

WEEKLY FACTSHEET #9

COVID-19: WEEK 15 - 21 JUNE 2020

REGIONAL INDICATORS

SOUTH AFRICA		DRC	
CONFIRMED	83890	CONFIRMED	5283
RECOVERED	44920	RECOVERED	685
DEATHS	1737	DEATHS	117
ZAMBIA		IVORY COAST	
CONFIRMED	1416	CONFIRMED	6444
RECOVERED	1144	RECOVERED	2863
DEATHS	11	DEATHS	49
TANZANIA		Source: app.powerbi.com	
CONFIRMED	509		
RECOVERED	183		
DEATHS	21		

DID YOU KNOW?

Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) occurs across all regions globally and is widely underreported in stable as well as emergency contexts, like during a pandemic. Did you know that the safety measures that are put in place to slow down the spread of the virus, such as lockdowns and physical distancing, are likely to increase the risks of women and girls experiencing violence? Examples include an increase in health and financial stresses in the home, a woman's loss of livelihood or earnings, restricted access to basic services and the inability to leave an abusive

situation or being in confinement within the home with violent partners. These are all reasons that could lead to increases in domestic violence during COVID-19. Some reports indicate that reporting, calls and service use are decreasing as women find themselves unable to leave the house or access help online or via telephone. That's why it is important for journalists and youth reporters to continue speaking out about Domestic Violence as a violation of human rights.

Source: [UN Women](https://www.unwomen.org/)

YOUTH VOICES

This pandemic is affecting all of us and it helps to reach out and share ideas, stories and concerns with one another about all things COVID-19. Please keep sharing your questions with us weekly, and we'll do our best to find you the most accurate and relevant answers.

JUNIOR DLAMINI (EMALAHLENI FM)

QUESTION: "The government has been saying that they are waiting for the COVID cases to reach the peak right? I want to know, what is the peak?"

RESPONSE: Modelling Specialists say that to reach the peak in a pandemic means that the number of new cases starts to level off rather than continuing to rise. The South African COVID-19 Modelling Consortium, used by the Department of Health, projects that about 1 million people will eventually be infected with COVID-19 in South Africa. The peak is estimated to be in August or September. This means that by that time, more than 8000 people may test positive

for the virus every day. President Cyril Ramaphosa made it clear that lockdown would only delay the spread of the virus, but wouldn't be able to stop it. The peak doesn't mean that the pandemic is over, it simply means that the cases of people infected with the virus will start to lower. The Actuarial Society of South Africa estimates that even with the lockdown, we can expect about 50 000 deaths a day at the peak of the pandemic in South Africa. That is why it's important to continue to adhere to all the safety measures recommended by the Health Officials.

Source: [Mail & Guardian](https://www.mailandguardian.co.za/)

AFTERNOON MASETSHABA (EMALAHLENI FM)

QUESTION: "Why do face masks have to be sold whereas it is going to be easier for the society to collect them at their nearest clinics for free? If it means they are going to be sold chances are not everyone will be able to buy them."

RESPONSE: Implementing a universal facemask wearing policy in the world has led to a shortage of face masks. The shortage is especially concerning for health workers who need to be prioritized for receiving free masks that will protect them and patients

in stopping the transmission of the virus. For those who can't afford to buy masks, there have been several innovations teaching people how to make their own masks using materials within their homes. Those who have the means, are also encouraged to make masks and donate to those who are less resourced in their communities. There are now websites dedicated to teaching people how to make affordable, simple masks for themselves, especially if they cannot afford to buy new ones. Please see: [FaceMasks4SouthAfrica](https://www.facebook.com/FaceMasks4SouthAfrica/)

MBUSO MASINGU (ALEX FM)

QUESTION: "What is going to happen to the homeless after the pandemic? What measures have been put in place to make sure that they don't go back to the streets?"

RESPONSE: It has been reported that several shelters have been established for the homeless to be housed during the COVID-19 outbreak, but many of these solutions are temporary. Acting Social Development MEC, Panyaza Lesufi, has been heading the project of housing and feeding the homeless in South Africa. Lesufi says that the government is working on a number of other options such as reconnecting the homeless with their families, doing a skills audit, helping them find jobs

and rehabilitating those with a drugs problem. Some of the homeless people say they've already been engaged by social workers on the kind of assistance they require. However, if these efforts do not yield results, they are facing a strong possibility of again having to fend for themselves on the streets. The shelters already built were assessed by MSF medical teams, and they face common problems of overcrowding, insufficient access to water and sanitation, drug users suffering from withdrawal, inconsistent distribution of food and low levels of screening, testing and safe isolation facilities.

Source: [Medicins Sans Frontieres \(MSF\)](https://www.msf.org/medicins-sans-frontieres)

CARISHNA PEKEUR (RADIO ATLANTIS)

QUESTION: "How is it possible that the high school textbooks have facts and information regarding the coronavirus, but the books were published a long time ago and the virus has only surfaced recently?"

RESPONSE: Coronaviruses are actually a family of hundreds of viruses that have mostly infected animals, but they can mutate, which is how they came to cause disease even in humans. They may be documented in your textbooks because the first coronavirus was discovered in chickens in the 1930's, and the first human coronaviruses were identified in the 1960's, meaning that they have been around for a long time. The first

known severe illness caused by a coronavirus emerged with the 2003 Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) epidemic in China. A second outbreak of severe illness began in 2012 in Saudi Arabia with the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS). On December 31 of last year, Chinese authorities alerted the World Health Organization of an outbreak of a novel strain of coronavirus causing severe illness, which was named SARS-CoV-2, the cause of the disease now known to us as COVID-19. Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus.

Source: [Science Daily](https://www.sciencedaily.com/)

SAMKELO HLONGWANE (ALEX FM)

QUESTION: "With celebrities delivering curriculum online, were they properly trained for such? Unlike properly trained teachers that have different styles of delivering curriculum. Is the government not worried about the outcome results of this 'celebrity programme'?"

RESPONSE: There have been many concerns in the public about celebrities teaching educational curriculum. The teachers' union SADTU's deputy general-secretary

Nkosana Dolopi says although they welcome any effort to help learners during lockdown, the teaching profession shouldn't be undermined. In their defense, The Department of Basic Education spokesperson Elijah Mhlanga, says it is an initiative of a non-profit organisation and the celebrities are volunteering their services. He says the majority of the people or celebrities involved in the initiative are also qualified teachers.

Source: [SABC News](https://www.sabcnews.com/)