



MINISTRY  
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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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## Media Release

**4 September 2020**

As of today, a cumulative total of **635 078** confirmed COVID-19 cases in South Africa have been recorded.

### Case Data

Province	Total cases for 04 September 2020	Percentage total
Eastern Cape	86635	13,6
Free State	39192	6,2
Gauteng	212186	33,4
KwaZulu-Natal	114360	18,0
Limpopo	13596	2,1
Mpumalanga	24836	3,9
North West	25965	4,1
Northern Cape	11521	1,8
Western Cape	106787	16,8
Unknown	0	0,0
<b>Total</b>	<b>635078</b>	<b>100,0</b>

The total number of tests conducted to date is **3 765 700** with 18 599 new tests conducted since the last report

Sector	Total tested		New tested	
PRIVATE	2 135 799	57%	10 476	56%
PUBLIC	1 629 901	43%	8 123	44%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 765 700</b>		<b>18 599</b>	

### Total Deaths and Recoveries

Regrettably, we report **115** more COVID-19 related deaths: 15 from KwaZulu-Natal, 43 from Gauteng, 12 from Eastern Cape, 18 from Free State, 4 from Western Cape, 11 from Northern Cape and 12 from Limpopo. This brings the total number of COVID-19 related deaths to **14 678**.

We extend our condolences to the loved ones of the departed and thank the health care workers that treated the deceased patients.

Our recoveries now stand at **557 818** which translates to a recovery rate of 88%

Province	Total Deaths	Total Recoveries	Percent Recoveries	Active Cases
Eastern Cape	2968	82233	95%	1434
Free State	757	27129	69%	11306
Gauteng	3773	185192	87%	23221
KwaZulu-Natal	2218	101034	88%	11108
Limpopo	214	12647	93%	735
Mpumalanga	378	23315	94%	1143
North West	275	20028	77%	5662
Northern Cape	145	7551	66%	3825
Western Cape	3950	98689	92%	4148
<b>National</b>	<b>14678</b>	<b>557818</b>	<b>88%</b>	<b>62582</b>

## **Current State of the Pandemic**

We are encouraged to see some key indicators showing improvement in the state of the South African pandemic. In the world ranking of total number of cases per country, we have dropped from 5th position to 7th position. We are also encouraged to see the number of active cases steadily declining from 90 103 on 20 August 2020 to 62 582 today- this translates to a 31% decrease in 2 weeks. We continue to register a high recovery rate at 88%. The testing positivity rate continues to decline as well, now at 11% nationally- on the 12 of July, corresponding more or less with the peak of our pandemic, we recorded the highest positivity rate at 30%.

Despite ranking 7th for the number of positive cases identified, we rank number 13 for the cumulative number of COVID-19 related deaths recorded. On 1 September, the Medical Research Council reported that unnatural deaths continue to decline (although this decline has slowed down). On the other hand, it would be remiss of me not to inform the public that the same report indicated that unnatural deaths have increased following the easing of alcohol restrictions- unnatural deaths now exceed the MRC predicted number.

We have been very concerned to see videos on social media of people hosting large parties and going to shebeens, taverns and bars beyond the curfew. We urge our people to continue observing health protocols such as social distancing, wearing of masks, sanitizing and washing of hands. We also caution against sharing of drinks, cigarettes, cigars, shisha pipes (“hubbly bubbly”) etc. Be aware that if you do this you have directly put yourself at risk. Whilst socializing and having fun, do not let your guard down and put your life and the lives of your loved ones at risk.

The threat of a second wave remains very real.

As we start the weekend, we wish to plead with South Africans to adhere to the curfew and not to drink excessively and irresponsibly.

Dr. Zwelini Mkhize  
Minister of Health  
ENDS...