



**GAUTENG PROVINCE**

HEALTH  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

**TO: All Media**

**ATT: News Editors, Health Reporters**

**For immediate release**

**23 June 2020**

### **GAUTENG DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CLOSELY MONITORING COVID-19 CASES AT MENTAL HEALTH CARE FACILITIES**

The Gauteng Department of Health (GDoH) is closely monitoring COVID-19 cases at both the departmental-run mental health institutions and at contracted facilities.

The department has 4 specialized Mental Health facilities namely, Weskoppies, Sterkfontein, Tara H Moross Psychiatric Hospital and Cullinan Care and Rehabilitation Centre. GDoH has additionally contracted Life Esidimeni health care (Waverley and Baneng care centres) and Clinix Health Group (Solomon Stix Morewa Hospital) to provide care, treatment and rehabilitation for chronic Mental Health Care Users (MHCU).

#### **Update on Facilities as of Tuesday, 23 June 2020:**

##### **Weskoppies Hospital**

Out of 699 MHCU at the facility, 19 tested positive, five are awaiting results and 675 are negative. Of those that are positive one person with underlying illness died on the 15th of June 2020 while another one was admitted to the Tshwane District Hospital on Monday, 23 June 2020.

There are 8 staff members who tested positive and are in isolation, 34 are awaiting their results while 1165 are negative.

##### **Sterkfontein**

The facility has no MHCU who are positive out of the 490 currently being looked after. Out of 873 staff members, seven tested positive, 359 are awaiting results and 507 are negative.

## **Tara H Moross Psychiatric Hospital**

A female MHCU at Tara hospital tested positive for COVID-19 on the 4th of June 2020, while one staff member (General Assistant) tested positive on the 11th of June 2020 following exposure to the positive MHCU. The employee is currently in isolation at home with mild symptoms.

## **CONTRACTED MENTAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES**

### **Baneng Care Centre**

A total of 14 MHCUs were tested and seven people were confirmed positive for COVID-19, these include four females and three males, with the results of five MHCU still pending.

Nine staff members tested positive, three have recovered and are back at work. Two remain in isolation at Midrand at Life Healthcare quarantine centre and four are isolated at home.

### **Waverley Care Centre**

One MHCU has tested positive for COVID-19, with four staff members also testing positive and are isolating at home. One staff member is awaiting results.

### **Solomon Stix Morewa Memorial Hospital (Selby)**

Out of 416 MHCUs 93 tested positive, 255 are negative and 68 are awaiting results. Sadly an elderly man with underlying conditions died who was admitted at Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital died on 17 June 2020.

The facility has 18 staff members who tested positive while 43 are negative out of 61 staff who were tested. All 18 employees are on self-isolation with three of them accommodated in one of the Clinix Health Group's hospital facilities due to their home conditions not being conducive for self-isolation.

The Department is closely monitoring the situation across the facilities. A number of the MHCUs are people with comorbidities. Coupled with the inability of most patients to adhere to COVID-19 precautionary measures put in place such as regular hand washing, cough etiquette, wearing of masks and maintaining physical distance this makes mental health care users to be among the most vulnerable groups.

The following measures have been put in place in facilities as part of the management of COVID-19

- The establishment of COVID-19 Task teams inclusive of relevant stakeholders
- Daily screening of staff and patients
- Implementation of infection control measures in line with guidelines for the prevention of the further spread of Coronavirus
- Guidelines/SOP on management on the COVID-19 have been developed
- Stable patients are given masks and encouraged to maintain social distancing
- Usage of appropriate PPE by staff
- Sanitizing of hands before entering the wards
- Continuous training of staff on the management of COVID-19 cases

One of the key steps is the engagement with the families of the affected mental health care users so that they are updated on developments in this regard.

The Department continues to work with various stakeholders to minimize the impact of COVID-19 on mental healthcare users.

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**For more information, contact**

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**For media releases, speeches and news visit the Gauteng Department of Health's portal at [www.gauteng.gov.za](http://www.gauteng.gov.za)**

**Please download Mpilo App on your smart device for regular updates and latest developments on Covid-19 including self-screening should you develop symptoms.**