



MEDIA STATEMENT

TO: All Media

ATT: News Editors, Health Reporters

For immediate release

Sunday, 12 April 2020

GAUTENG COVID-19 CASES DISTRICT BREAKDOWN

The total number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Gauteng sits at 813.

BREAKDOWN PER DISTRICT

DISTRICT	FIGURE
Johannesburg	467
Tshwane	92
West Rand	30
Sedibeng	6
Ekhuruleni	141
Unallocated	77
Total	813
Total number of deaths	3

ON THE USE OF CLOTH MASKS:

The Gauteng Department of Health wishes to reiterate the message by the Minister of Health, Dr Zweli Mkhize on the recommendation and usage of cloth masks for the general public.

Face masks are recommended as an addition to golden rules of good hygiene and social distancing. The face mask should never be promoted as our primary prevention strategy and should never be promoted separately from hand-washing and social distancing measures.

Face masks are recommended for use by the general public in order to ensure that N95 masks and surgical masks are available to be used by healthcare workers who are at the front line of the battle against COVID-19.

Minister Mkhize has indicated his satisfaction of sufficient scientific evidence to show that the cloth face mask significantly reduces the amount of virus that can be emitted.

THE FOLLOWING RULES SHOULD BE OBSERVED WHEN USING CLOTH FACE-MASKS:

- The face mask must cover the nose and mouth completely.
- Face masks should not be lowered when speaking, coughing or sneezing.
- Face masks should never be touched – fidgeting with the mask repeatedly is strongly discouraged as it is important to avoid touching the face with hands. The inner side of the mask should not be touched by hands.
- Wash hands before and after donning or removing the face-mask.
- Wash cloth face masks with warm soapy water and iron when dry. Ironing assists with decontamination
- Change your cloth face mask if it is wet or visibly soiled
- Each person will need to have at least 2 face-masks so that one face-mask is available when the other is being washed.

Ends/

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