
STATEMENT

June 2020

CORONA VIRUS (COVID-19): SARETEC's COVID-19 RESPONSE TO STAKEHOLDERS

Dear Stakeholder

Background

On 30 January 2020, the World Health Organisation declared the coronavirus outbreak a global health emergency. Since then, many countries enforced a nationwide lockdown including South Africa.

On Sunday 15 March 2020, President Cyril Ramaphosa declared a national state of disaster in terms of the Disaster Management Act. President Ramaphosa highlighted that the current circumstances require extraordinary measures to curb the spread of infections and enforced a 21-day nationwide lockdown on 23 March 2020 which took effect on Thursday, 26 March 2020 till 16 April 2020. On 9 April 2020 President Cyril Ramaphosa addressed the Nation once again to announce the extension of the nationwide lockdown for a further 2 weeks beyond the initial 21 days as extra precautionary measures needed to be set in place as the positive cases increased globally.

Currently, South Africa has measures set in place based on the direction of the pandemic in the country.

As part of this approach, there will be five coronavirus levels:

Level 5 means that drastic measures are required to contain the spread of the virus to save lives.

Level 4 means that some activity can be allowed to resume subject to extreme precautions required to limit community transmission and outbreaks.

Level 3 involves the easing of some restrictions, including on work and social activities, to address a high risk of transmission.

Level 2 involves the further easing of restrictions, but the maintenance of physical distancing and restrictions on some leisure and social activities to prevent a resurgence of the virus.

Level 1 means that most normal activity can resume, with precautions and health guidelines followed at all times.

(Source: South African Government website)

If you would like to read more about the levels, you can read it [here](#)

Some of these considerations include the drop to level 3 lockdown restrictions and the pronouncement that 33% of our student body may be allowed back onto campus (with limitations). As management, we will be sitting with this information along with the governmental guidelines on social distancing requirements and health and safety best practices to ensure the institution is well prepared for the new lockdown level restrictions.

We commit to giving students ample time to travel back from their respective provinces (if they fall within the first cohort to return) and communication on this will be forthcoming closer to the end of the week. The safety of our staff and students is always our first concern, and we need this time to ensure that the infrastructure and plans are in place as we resume operations. We must stress that no student should return to campus until they receive official communication from the institution that they are eligible to do so. Please continue to respect the lockdown restrictions and do your bit to flatten the curve.

Further to the above, SARETEC also takes its response to Covid-19 in line with the directive given out by the Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT) of which SARETEC is a part of.

SARETEC's offices have been officially closed since 26 March 2020 until further notice and depending on the future developments with regards to the pandemic.

SARETEC, in-line with our [quality policy](#) has implemented the following measures:

Working arrangements:

- Key critical staff have been empowered with the necessary remote technology tools. They will work remotely and securely from their homes as we aim to continue supporting our clients and stakeholders as far as possible, under these trying circumstances.

It is recommended that you reach out to us via email should you wish to [contact us](#).

Staying connected

- SARETEC has weekly online scheduled business and team meetings using Microsoft teams to stay in touch and stay connected during the nationwide lockdown.
- Staff stay connected daily through messaging and emailing to stay up to date on any current or new developments.

Rescheduling

- Any and all commitments or events that SARETEC were planning to host shall be rescheduled until further notice depending on the directive from the national government regarding the lockdown and CPUT guidelines.

If any clients or stakeholders who wish to arrange an event in the future at SARETEC, please feel free to [contact us](#).

It is foreseen that SARETEC shall be getting ready to operate under strict Covid-19 conditions incorporating a number of initiatives such as:

1. All staff members who are above the age of 60 are requested to continue working from home during this period. Staff members with chronic conditions are requested to work from home.
2. All staff reporting for duty as of the 1st of June 2020 are encouraged to work together to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 by following the health advice and guidance provided by CPUT Management & SARETEC COVID-19 team.
3. A roster will be communicated to each staff by their line manager outlining the days on which each staff member is required to be at work.
4. Sanitising resources will be available to employees.
5. Staff members will be provided with facemasks.
6. All staff sharing offices are advised not to report to work on the same day, a roster of shifts will be circulated by their line manager so as to adhere to the 2-meter distance.
7. In efforts to ensuring the safety of all employees, we will further have sanitizer stations at all key points in the SARETEC vicinities.
8. The Project manager together with the CPUT COVID-19 team will be responsible of making sure the cleaning and disinfecting of the building for COVID-19 be done before staff commence for duty on the 1st June 2020
9. Cleaning of work areas will be conducted at regular intervals where SARETEC cleaners will be allowed to work on roster basis.
10. Any staff member requiring to have a visitor on campus is requested to get approval prior to the visitor's arrival.

Please stay safe, stay home if you can and follow the precautionary guidelines provided by the government during this extraordinary time.

Please visit the COVID-19 Corona Virus South African Resource Portal for up to date information: <https://sacoronavirus.co.za/>.

You can also add the WhatsApp Support Line: 0600- 123456 (type “hi” and follow the prompts) or phone the Emergency Hotline: 0800 029 999.