



health

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**NORTHERN CAPE**

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Enquirie L Moleleki

Date: 29 May 2020

Hon. Newrene Klaaste  
Speaker of the Legislature  
Northern Cape Provincial Legislature  
Nobengula Extension  
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8301

Dear Hon Speaker

Responses from the Department of Health to the Questions for Written Reply- Rule212  
by Democratic Alliance

Please find attached, the responses to the questions for written reply.

Hope you find above in order.

Yours faithfully,

GM Manopole  
MPL  
MEC For Health

## Responses from the Department of Health to the Parliamentary Questions asked by the Democratic Alliance on 15/5/2020

During April 2020 the NHLS in Kimberley received 100 000 swab-sampling kits for the Northern Cape. The current number of swab samples taken in the province is almost 6 600 (May 27<sup>th</sup>) which means that there are over 90 000 swab-sampling kits still available.

From the 100 000 initial delivery, NHLS provided all public health facilities with a minimum 50 kits at the outset. NHLS allocated each laboratory in each district a stock of 10 000 to replenish the health facilities as the need arises. NHLS will procure more swab test kits as required.

The NHLS currently does not have a laboratory service in the Northern Cape for testing SARS-CoV-2 samples. NHLS collects the swab samples at its laboratories in each District and forwards them to one of their laboratories that will undertake the investigation. This is primarily to the laboratory in Bloemfontein, with some Namakwa samples being forwarded to their laboratory in Cape Town.

NHLS have allocated 300 laboratory tests per day to the Northern Cape. The private laboratories also undertake tests for the private sector. From the day that the swab is taken to the time that the laboratory result is released to the clinician and patient is normally between 1 and 3 days.

Below is a breakdown per day of how many tests have been conducted in the province, since Coronavirus testing commenced in the Northern Cape

	Public Labs		Private Labs		All Labs	
	Daily Tests	Cumulative tests	Daily Tests	Cumulative Tests	Daily Tests	Cumulative Tests
20/02/2020	3	3	0	0	3	3
21/02/2020	4	7	0	0	4	7
22/02/2020	2	9	0	0	2	9
23/02/2020	6	15	0	0	6	15
24/02/2020	9	24	0	0	9	24
25/02/2020	5	29	0	0	5	29
26/02/2020	6	35	1	1	7	36
27/02/2020	2	37	2	3	4	40
28/02/2020	1	38	5	8	6	46
29/02/2020	1	39	0	8	1	47
01/03/2020	1	40	0	8	1	48
02/03/2020	9	49	0	8	9	57
03/03/2020	2	51	0	8	2	59
04/03/2020	1	52	0	8	1	60
05/03/2020	1	53	0	8	1	61
06/03/2020	2	55	3	11	5	66
07/03/2020	2	57	9	20	11	77
08/03/2020	1	58	0	20	1	78
09/03/2020	2	60	0	20	2	80
10/03/2020	3	63	0	20	3	83
11/03/2020	4	67	0	20	4	87
12/03/2020	8	75	0	20	8	95
13/03/2020	6	81	0	20	6	101
14/03/2020	5	86	0	20	5	106
15/03/2020	4	61	12	32	16	93

16/03/2020	15	76	18	50	33	126
17/03/2020	14	90	12	62	26	152
18/03/2020	5	95	8	70	13	165
19/03/2020	6	101	7	77	13	178
20/03/2020	38	139	14	91	52	230
21/03/2020	2	141	2	93	4	234
22/03/2020	45	186	12	105	57	291
23/03/2020	16	202	16	121	32	323
24/03/2020	18	220	20	141	38	361
25/03/2020	40	260	10	151	50	411
26/03/2020	25	285	7	158	32	443
27/03/2020	18	303	39	197	57	500
28/03/2020	15	318	16	213	31	531
29/03/2020	25	343	17	230	42	573
30/03/2020	32	375	17	247	49	622
31/03/2020	4	379	25	272	29	651
01/04/2020	12	391	15	287	27	678
02/04/2020	16	407	28	315	44	722
03/04/2020	19	426	12	327	31	753
04/04/2020	10	436	14	341	24	777
05/04/2020	5	441	11	352	16	793
06/04/2020	24	465	12	364	36	829
07/04/2020	18	483	13	377	31	860
08/04/2020	10	493	18	395	28	888
09/04/2020	16	509	8	403	24	912
10/04/2020	8	517	9	412	17	929
11/04/2020	14	531	5	417	19	948
12/04/2020	10	541	14	431	24	972
13/04/2020	9	550	12	443	21	993
14/04/2020	16	566	12	455	28	1021
15/04/2020	32	598	12	467	44	1065
16/04/2020	31	629	19	486	50	1115
17/04/2020	22	651	28	514	50	1165
18/04/2020	26	677	17	531	43	1208
19/04/2020	10	687	14	545	24	1232
20/04/2020	13	700	23	568	36	1268
21/04/2020	33	733	10	578	43	1311
22/04/2020	12	745	15	593	27	1338
23/04/2020	37	782	58	651	95	1433
24/04/2020	9	791	21	672	30	1463
25/04/2020	22	813	16	688	38	1501
26/04/2020	15	828	17	705	32	1533
27/04/2020	22	850	22	727	44	1577
28/04/2020	15	865	18	745	33	1610
29/04/2020	19	884	18	763	37	1647
30/04/2020	76	960	26	789	102	1749
01/05/2020	26	986	39	828	65	1814
02/05/2020	57	1043	14	842	71	1885
03/05/2020	38	1081	44	886	82	1967

04/05/2020	56	1137	38	924	94	2061
05/05/2020	19	1156	39	963	58	2119
06/05/2020	203	1359	41	1004	244	2363
07/05/2020	37	1396	25	1029	62	2425
08/05/2020	30	1426	16	1045	46	2471
09/05/2020	45	1471	85	1130	130	2601
10/05/2020	38	1509	49	1179	87	2688
11/05/2020	21	1530	33	1212	54	2742
12/05/2020	72	1602	47	1259	119	2861
13/05/2020	180	1782	26	1285	206	3067
14/05/2020	38	1820	148	1433	186	3253
15/05/2020	59	1879	126	1559	185	3438
16/05/2020	35	1914	82	1641	117	3555
17/05/2020	10	1924	75	1716	85	3640
18/05/2020	80	2004	80	1796	160	3800
19/05/2020	54	2058	170	1966	224	4024
20/05/2020	75	2133	63	2029	138	4162
21/05/2020	350	2483	134	2163	484	4646
22/05/2020	194	2677	117	2280	311	4957
23/05/2020	116	2793	98	2378	214	5171
24/05/2020	184	2977	85	2463	269	5440

It has been standard practice to only test people if they meet the criteria set by the NICD. More recently we have started to also test all close contacts. A programme to test all inpatients and all frontline staff over the coming weeks is also unfolding. The number of contract tracers is provided below:

<b><i>District</i></b>	<b><i>Tracing Team members</i></b>
<i>Frances Baard</i>	<i>145</i>
<i>JT Gaetsewe</i>	<i>358</i>
<i>Namakwa</i>	<i>49</i>
<i>Pixley Ka Seme</i>	<i>66</i>
<i>ZF Mgcawu</i>	<i>142</i>
<i>Provincial office</i>	<i>20</i>
<b><i>NC Total</i></b>	<b><i>780</i></b>

Training in Contact Tracing was initially provided by the National Department of Health. Since that initial training the province has been conducting in-service training led by senior members of the clinical team. The tracing team members are available on a continual basis in each sub-district, seven days a week, and deployed whenever people under investigation (PUI) or known positive people are identified.

When a COVID-19 positive person is suspected or confirmed, the Tracing Teams identify all close contacts. Below is the detail of all contacts and how many were tested, including the results of that test. Originally the Department focused on only testing those who were symptomatic. We now aim to take swabs from all close contacts.

<b><i>District</i></b>	<b><i>Identified contacts</i></b>	<b><i>Contacts tested</i></b>	<b><i>Contacts tested positive</i></b>
<i>Frances Baard</i>	<i>534</i>	<i>411</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>JT Gaetsewe</i>	<i>75</i>	<i>75</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Namakwa</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Pixley Ka Seme</i>	<i>128</i>	<i>128</i>	<i>0</i>

The District Health Services hold a range of PPE stock which they distribute to facilities as needed. Additionally, the Emergency Medical Service has made provision for PPE for both medium risk and high risk patients. Medium risk PPE includes surgical masks, apron, gloves and goggles. High risk PPE includes coveralls, N95 mask, boot covers, gloves and face shields. These levels of PPE are informed by guidelines as published by NICD and WHO.

In addition to the stock held at facility level, the department also has the following stock held centrally:

<b>Procurement</b>	
Surgical gloves (pair)	8 000
Surgical masks	84 500
Respirator N95 masks	21 375
Visors	3 478
Sanitisers 1l	11 000

Supply Chain Management unit is consolidating future needs of the facilities in line with the expected surge in infections as indicated by the modeling of the National Department of Health. There is also a parallel process of evaluating the suppliers for compliance with SCM requirements and importantly for the capacity to deliver once issued with an order.

EMS personnel have been trained in the theory and epidemiology of COVID-19, recognition of signs and symptoms of the virus, correct selection of PPE, the use of PPE including donning and doffing of PPE, and vehicle disinfection.

The NICD have used the term Quarantine to describe people under investigation or who could be positive for COVID-19, whereas isolation is used to describe people who are confirmed positive for COVID -19.

The Department of Public Works, with input from the Department of Health, have been working through a programme to identify suitable sites for quarantine of people who cannot self-quarantine at home. We are now working through the list provided to you by the Department of Public Works to remove those health facilities that are better repurposed for isolation, This will be clarified over the coming week.

National Department of Health (NDoH) have recommended in their modelling that the province should have 2 076 general beds and 71 critical care beds with ventilators for COVID-19 patients during peak surge. The general bed capacity across the province is 1 358 general beds (having excluded maternity, paediatrics, mental health, etc.) and 71 critical care beds. The NDoH have recommended that we may need to use up to 80% of beds during peak surge. Currently this stands 1 090 general beds and 68 critical care beds.

The target set for our province by the NDOH is to have 71 ventilated ICU beds in the province. Currently we have identified 30 ventilators, which gives a shortfall of 41 ventilators. We have been earmarked 30 Ventilators from the CSIR Ventilator Project and await confirmation. The various mining houses in the province have promised to donate 18 ventilators before end of June.

The contracted Health Care Risk Waste (HCRW) service provider for the Department of Health is responsible for HCRW services at all health care facilities in the province. They also provide HCRW services to public quarantine sites.

In terms of mortuary services there are 87 public mortuaries and private undertakers who can hold up to 1 061 bodies at any one time. This capacity is deemed sufficient.

<i>District</i>	<i>Number of private undertakers and public mortuaries</i>	<i>Body storage capacity</i>
<i>Frances Baard (excl. SP LM)</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>205</i>
<i>Sol Plaatje Local Municipality</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>336</i>
<i>John Taolo Gaetsewe</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>147</i>
<i>Pixley ka Seme</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>131</i>
<i>ZF Mgcawu</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>129</i>
<i>Namakwa</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>113</i>
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>87</i>	<i>1061</i>

Each municipality has indicated how many "open spaces" they have available for mass graves, as well as for normal burials.