

Media Release: Update on the coronavirus by Premier Alan Winde 18 July 2020

As of 1pm on 18 July, the Western Cape has 13 405 active cases of COVID-19, with a total of 84402 confirmed cases and 68410 recoveries.

Total confirmed COVID-19 cases	84402
Total recoveries	68410
Total deaths	2587
Total active cases (currently infected patients)	13405
Tests conducted	372504
Hospitalisations	1607 with 329 in ICU or high care

Sub Districts Cape Town Metro:

Sub-district	Cases	Recoveries
Western	7027	5903
Southern	7317	6070
Northern	4823	4120
Tygerberg	10479	8799
Eastern	7600	6394
Klipfontein	7675	6429
Mitchells Plain	6663	5586
Khayelitsha	7436	6529
Total	59020	49830

Sub-districts:

District	Sub-district	Cases	Recoveries
Garden Route	Bitou	249	132
Garden Route	Knysna	575	308
Garden Route	George	1705	1002
Garden Route	Hessequa	78	36
Garden Route	Kannaland	43	21
Garden Route	Mossel Bay	790	378

Garden Route	Oudsthoorn	273	133
Cape Winelands	Stellenbosch	1597	1280
Cape Winelands	Drakenstein	3396	2855
Cape Winelands	Breede Valley	2424	1898
Cape Winelands	Langeberg	814	604
Cape Winelands	Witzenberg	1010	785
Overberg	Overstrand	1145	868
Overberg	Cape Agulhas	133	84
Overberg	Swellendam	193	112
Overberg	Theewaterskloof	797	600
West Coast	Bergrivier	273	219
West Coast	Cederberg	74	50
West Coast	Matzikama	161	97
West Coast	Saldanha Bay Municipality	980	765
West Coast	Swartland	948	677
Central Karoo	Beaufort West	112	48
Central Karoo	Laingsburg	14	7
Central Karoo	Prince Albert	1	0

Unallocated: 7578 (5566 recovered)

Data note: As we move closer to the peak, the Department of Health is recording over 1000 new cases daily, it is not possible to check and verify that the address data supplied for each new case is correct, within the time frames required to provide regular and timely updates. This means that in some instances, cases could be allocated to the wrong sub-districts. We are working with the sub-districts to clean and verify the data and where errors are picked up locally, cases will be re-allocated to the correct areas.

More data is available here: <https://coronavirus.westerncape.gov.za/covid-19-dashboard>

The Western Cape has recorded an additional 44 deaths, bringing the total number of COVID-19 related deaths in the province to 2587. We send our condolences to their loved ones at this time.

10 day isolation period:

Last night, national Health Minister, Dr Zweli Mkhize announced that the country will be moving to a ten-day isolation period in line with WHO protocols. This means that if you are confirmed to be COVID-19 positive, then the period in which you must isolate is no longer 14 days and you should calculate the ten days as follows:

-Asymptomatic: As it is more difficult to estimate where in the virus cycle an asymptomatic patient is, the ten-day isolation period starts from the date that you tested positive.

-Mild symptoms: If you are experiencing mild symptoms, the ten-day period will be determined from the date you first started experiencing symptoms.

-Severe cases: Patients with severe symptoms who need to be hospitalized may share the virus for a longer period of time. The isolation period is therefore 10 days from when clinical stability is reached.

As we learn more about the COVID-19 virus and how it behaves, recommendations and advice are adapted. The new isolation times have been devised with scientific and clinical input, and are in line with international guidelines.

Even though the period is shorter, I must stress that the process of isolating is no less important. Isolating is imperative to avoid spreading COVID-19 further and infecting your loved ones.

You can follow these self-isolation guidelines to ensure that you protect those living with you:

- Aim to stay in a well-ventilated room with a window that can be opened. Try to keep the window open as much as possible to enable ventilation and airflow as this will help to keep clean air moving through your room.
- Minimise the time you spend in shared spaces such as bathrooms, kitchens and sitting rooms as much as possible and keep shared spaces clean and well ventilated.
- Clean surfaces using household cleaners, or a mixture of bleach and water.
- Keep a separate set of cutlery and crockery for yourself.
- Your domestic waste must be double-bagged and stored in the sun for a period of 3 to 5 days before placing it in the general waste bin for collection.
- If during this time, you experience shortness of breath, then you must seek medical attention.

If you are not able to do this, or if you share your home with elderly relatives, or anyone with an underlying illness, it is best to go to one of our quarantine and isolation facilities. You can find out more information about these by calling our hotline on 021 928 4102.

Mandela Day message for healthcare workers:

Today as we celebrate Mandela Day, we must send a special thank you to all of the men and women on the frontlines of our healthcare response, who have dedicated themselves to helping others every single day. To the nurses, doctors, porters, cleaners, technicians, and all of the people in our healthcare system, thank you for your kindness, your care and your service to the people of this province.