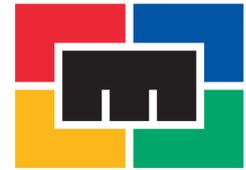


INFORMATION ABOUT THE CORONAVIRUS

February 2020



MINERALS COUNCIL
SOUTH AFRICA

The World Health Organization has declared that the rise of the coronavirus is now an international emergency.

The South African National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD) is watching developments very closely, and is ensuring that all medical facilities across the country know what to look out for.



WHAT IS THE CORONAVIRUS?

The virus is similar to the common cold. Symptoms can be very mild for some people, but can be far more deadly for others. Symptoms include fever, coughing, shortness of breath.



WHERE DID THE CORONAVIRUS COME FROM?

The latest outbreak of the coronavirus started in China, and by 31 January had spread to 19 countries. Close on 200 people have died from the virus, and more than 10,000 people have been infected. There are no cases in South Africa yet, but the mining industry is on alert to protect its employees and their families.



HOW IS THE CORONAVIRUS SPREAD?

The coronavirus is an infectious disease. This means that it is very easily spread from an infected person to others through:

- The air by coughing and sneezing
- Close personal contact, such as touching or shaking hands
- Touching an object or surface with the virus on it, then touching your mouth, nose, or eyes before washing your hands

DON'T PANIC

Here is some information that you need to know. Feel free to share this with friends and family.

First, there is no need to panic:

- Not everyone who gets the virus becomes gravely ill
- Good personal hygiene can prevent its spread

Courtesy of the World Health Organization



**World Health
Organization**





CAN I GET A VACCINE OR MEDICINE TO STOP THE VIRUS?

There is no vaccine available at present, so there is no medication that can be taken to prevent infection. But, there are steps that you can take to prevent getting the virus, and stopping its spread.



HOW CAN I AVOID GETTING THE VIRUS?

This is the latest information we have from the World Health Organization.

- Wash your hands often with soap and water. Or use an alcohol-based hand rub
- Avoid close contact with anyone who has fever and cough. Avoid close contact with other people if you are coughing or have a fever
- When coughing and sneezing, cover your mouth and nose with your elbow or tissue and not your hands
- Only eat well-cooked food, especially when you are travelling
- If you become sick while travelling, let someone know and see a doctor immediately. When you see a doctor, let them know where you have travelled
- Never spit in public

To protect yourself and others from getting sick

Always wash your hands:



After coughing or sneezing

When looking after a sick person

Before, during and after you prepare food

Before eating

After using the toilet

When hands look dirty

After touching animals

Never spit in public



WHAT TO DO IF YOU FEEL SICK

The NICD has issued guidance to all government and private health facilities, and to all doctors in South Africa. They know what to look out for if you report to them with symptoms. The WHO says that if you have a fever, cough and difficulty breathing, you should seek medical care as soon as possible and share your recent travel history with your health care provider.

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