



MINING INDUSTRY ACTION PLAN ON COVID-19

Minerals Council response



TIMELINE

January 2020	Early February 2020	Week of 9 March 2020	11 March 2020	11 March 2020	15 March 2020	17 March 2020
WHO declared COVID-19 a Public Health Emergency of International Concern	Minerals Council provided members with material on mitigation measures against the virus, targeted at employees (Materials based on information from NICD and WHO)	Minerals Council engages with DMRE (especially Chief Inspector of Mines)	WHO declared COVID-19 a pandemic after the virus reached more than 100 countries around the world	Minerals Council issued second set of guidance materials to members	President Cyril Ramaphosa declared a national state of disaster announcing measures taken by the country to combat the COVID-19 pandemic	Minerals Council meets with Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy on industry preparedness

The Minerals Council listened very closely to the message from the President, and is fully supportive of the measures he announced. The Minerals Council and its members are already doing many of the things he spoke of and will fully align with the requirements.

10-POINT ACTION PLAN




ENGAGEMENT WITH ORGANISED LABOUR AND GOVERNMENT

Organised labour


- The Minerals Council sees organised labour as a partner in its approach
- The Minerals Council and its members have initiated engagements with organised labour at a national level both directly and through the MHSC
- Companies and mines are engaging with organised labour at local and national level

Government


- In its engagement with government, the Minerals Council:
- continues to engage with the DMRE
 - continues to engage with the DoH to ensure alignment
 - participated in the NEDLAC special Executive Council meeting to discuss a common programme to slow down the spread of COVID-19
 - has been invited to participate in the interdisciplinary team leading the planning around COVID-19

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Employee education and health promotion for employees, contractors and suppliers


 - Workplace cleanliness and hygiene with disinfectants
 - Regular, thorough handwashing, sanitising hand rubs
 - Promote good respiratory hygiene, including ordinary masks for sneezing and coughing people
 - Instructions for anyone with mild cough, fever to isolate
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Health worker readiness


 - Workplace hygiene
 - Education on the management of COVID-19
 - Triaging people with respiratory symptoms in healthcare facilities, including provision of ordinary masks
 - Alternate arrangements for supply of chronic medication to reduce crowds
 - Information on the NICD hotline
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Ensuring access to consumables

Ensuring access to:


 - consumables (masks, gloves, cleaning materials, glasses, protective gowns, etc.) for medical professionals
 - PPE for employees, and hardware (infra-red temperature monitors)
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Proactive influenza vaccination


 - Mining industry undertakes and promotes this every year
 - Particularly important for people with compromised immunity, the elderly or those with chronic conditions
 - Companies will be identifying employees who would be most at risk
 - Blanket flu vaccination is recommended where possible, with those at risk being a priority
 - Minerals Council recognises that the flu vaccine does not prevent COVID-19, but it does help to ensure that employees' immune systems are not compromised if they should become infected with the virus
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Understanding the potential impact on employees who may be immuno-compromised


 - NICD advises that it is important for employees to understand their HIV status, and to take ARVs where this is required
 - Companies will be identifying employees who would be considered to be most at risk
 - Mining industry already has an HIV and TB screening campaign through Masoyise Health Programme, and this will be intensified

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Case definition and management of suspected cases or contacts of cases

 - This will be done in conjunction with the NICD
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Isolation of employees should the need arise

 - Engaging with the NICD on standards/protocols for quarantine, and the potential role of mine hospitals
 - If required, the mining industry will also explore a regional approach for treatment of cases, which includes collaboration between the state and the companies (This will only be considered following guidance from the DoH and NICD)
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Travel advice

 - As advised by NICD, only essential travel to areas with COVID-19 should be undertaken
 - WHO advises that people coming from COVID-19 affected countries should monitor their temperature twice a day and self-isolate once they have symptoms, as well as alert health authorities
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Reporting and communication in the mining industry in the event of a case

 - Any suspected or confirmed case will be reported to the Minerals Council (after consultation with NICD)
 - The Minerals Council will maintain and report on industry data
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Monitoring

 - The Mineral Council will continue to monitor international statistics as presented by credible sources such as the WHO and NICD