

MEDIA STATEMENT

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MINERALS COUNCIL CALLS ON ALL EMPLOYEES AND COMMUNITIES TO ACT RESPONSIBLY AS EASTER WEEKEND APPROACHES

Third Wave has potential to be more deadly

Johannesburg, 31 March 2021. The Minerals Council South Africa calls on all employees and communities to be mindful that over the Easter weekend and other holidays in April COVID-19 is still with us.

Says Dr Thuthula Balfour, Head: Health at the Minerals Council: “COVID-19 will not take a break over Easter. As far as possible, we must all continue to follow COVID-19 guidelines, stay at home and avoid group gatherings to reduce the spread of the virus during this time to protect ourselves and those we care about.”

The impact of the Second Wave during and following the December holidays was devastating. Many South Africans lost their lives or suffered the loss of someone dear to them. The impact was also felt in the mining sector. During the whole of 2020, 213 employees succumbed to COVID-19. As of 30 March, the industry reported 162 deaths for this year alone.

While current infection levels indicate that South Africa’s positivity rate has declined, we know that we are already starting to see this turn again in some provinces.

Experts are saying that the Third Wave could be even more deadly than the Second Wave which is expected to start as we approach an extended period of public holidays, starting with the Easter weekend and heading towards the colder months of winter.

Dr Balfour notes that as COVID-19 remains with us, there are prevention measures within our control which we can implement during this festive season:

- Stay at home as far as possible.
- Avoid social gatherings and crowds (remember that religious or other gatherings where more than 250 people are expected are illegal).



- Keep a social distance of 1.5 metres.
- Always wear your mask.
- Wash or sanitise your hands.
- When traveling or attending church services, ensure good ventilation by opening windows.

“While we know that COVID-19 is with us to stay, there will come a time when lower infection levels and vaccinations will mean that we are able to achieve a level of community immunity that will allow us as individuals and communities to travel and gather with our loved ones at a far lower level of risk. Unfortunately, that time has not yet come. For now, we must act selflessly and do all we can to protect lives and livelihoods,” concluded Dr Balfour.

MATERIALS FOR EMPLOYEES AND COMMUNITIES



- [English](#)
- [Sotho](#)
- [isiXhosa](#)
- [isiZulu](#)

For more information about COVID-19 and the mining industry, see <https://www.mineralscouncil.org.za/minerals-council-position-on-covid-19>

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