



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE KZN HEALTH 2020/21 BUDGET SPEECH:

The Budget Speech has been delivered under the theme #KZNHealthCares: Improving infrastructure, improving waiting times, improving quality and access to health care for the people of KwaZulu-Natal.



MS NOMAGUGU SIMELANE-ZULU
MEC FOR HEALTH

BUDGET VOTE 2020

EXPANDING THE CAPACITY OF HEALTHCARE FACILITIES

We are going to upgrade the following facilities from district to regional hospital level:

- Vryheid
- Bethesda
- Dundee
- Christ the King

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MEC FOR HEALTH

BUDGET VOTE 2020

REDUCING MOTHER-TO-CHILD TRANSMISSION OF HIV

In the last financial year, the rate of Mother to Child Transmission (MTCT) around 10 weeks was 0.56%; which exceeded our target of 0.8%. This is in line with the Elimination of Mother to Child Transmission Last Mile Plan of South Africa 2021.

To sustain this achievement, we will continue implementing the Elimination of Mother-To-Child Transmission (EMTCT) Last Mile Plan activities such as:

- Real Time Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) Monitoring
- Safer Conception Services, among others

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MEC FOR HEALTH

BUDGET VOTE 2020

A NEW TERTIARY HOSPITAL NORTH OF THE PROVINCE

Ideally, given the population size and the vastness of the Province of KwaZulu-Natal, we ought to have at least three tertiary hospitals.

It is an anomaly that KZN's two hospitals (Grey's Hospital and King Edward VIII Hospital) can only be located in the urban areas.

Therefore, we have decided to **build a tertiary hospital in the north of the Province.** We have already identified a site adjacent to Ngwelezane Hospital, for this purpose.

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CHAMPIONING E-HEALTH

A new IT system has been developed by a group of young people. This e-Health system is being piloted at Prince Mshiyeni Memorial, and at Madadeni hospitals.

It will, in a revolutionary way, ensure that files are created and sent electronically and securely between various hospital units.

We plan to have reached half of our facilities by the end of this financial year if our resources are not drained by the COVID – 19 pandemic.

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RENAMING OF EDENDALE HOSPITAL AFTER Cde HARRY GWALA

In honouring the legacy of uM'dala, we have made a decision to rename Edendale Hospital after him.

In line with this decision, the Department has also decided to revamp the hospital, while also working to improve staff attitudes and overall client experience, in order to ensure that this facility is a reflection of the true stature of the man.

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BUDGET VOTE 2020

GAINS MADE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST TB

There has been an increase on the TB treatment success rate due to the decrease in Lost to follow up (10.2 to 9.8%), and a reduction in the death rate from 8% to 7.4%.

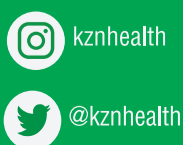
However, eThekweni remains with the highest burden of TB, which is worsened by the high number of informal settlements (about 400). A project was started last year through Global Fund to tackle TB in informal settlements.

The Department will continue to educate and raise awareness on TB in the communities, collaborating with all sectors and local stakeholders.

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HOPES TURN TO “YOUTH POWER” TO LEAD THE FIGHT AGAINST THE HEALTH STRUGGLE, DURING COVID-19 AND BEYOND

June marks the commemoration of Youth Month in South Africa, a significant period in the history of the country where we reflect on the contribution of young people to the struggle for democracy.

It's now 44 years of remembrance since the 1976 Soweto Uprising, where youth activists took decisive action against the then apartheid regime on matters of their rights and education. The youth of this country were pioneers who fought for what they believed in, reminding us all that there is power in numbers and unity.

This year's theme is “Youth Power, Growing South Africa Together in the period of COVID-19”. A call is being made to all young people of this country to actively participate in one way or another in ensuring that the battle against COVID-19 is won. This is an opportune moment to not only reflect on the sad memories of our past but emulate the courageous actions of the gallant young

lions who sacrificed their lives for the freedom we now enjoy.

Young people can own today's struggle for better health and start by becoming health champions where they live. They can play an active role by keeping a good health record, display responsible behaviour, adopt a healthy lifestyle programme, seek information on health concepts and services in order to share and educate other people.

This can go a long way in influencing behavioural change and improving the health outcomes of our communities.

This year's commemoration of Youth Month takes place in the midst of a serious battle against the deadly novel Coronavirus

outbreak. The COVID-19 response requires all our collective effort if we want to conquer it. We will therefore tap into the “Youth Power” as a key additional resource to complement everything that has been put in place to pull us through thus far. Young people are encouraged to heed this

call.

A range of packages of healthcare services (condoms, contraceptives, family planning, Medical Male Circumcision etc.) for the youth of this province are available throughout our facilities even during this time.



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A SPARKLING BRAND NEW ISOLATION AND QUARANTINE SITE HAS BEEN UNVEILED

On Monday KZN Health MEC Nomagugu Simelane-Zulu announced Clairwood Hospital as the latest addition to the province's quarantine and isolation centres.

The MEC was joined by Head of Department Dr Sandile Tshabalala and representatives of organized labour. She said the COVID - 19 facility, which was refurbished in just two months, will enable 154 patients to be isolated and about 40 to be quarantined.

It also has technological advancements such as doors programmed to only permit entry for people with an appropriate temperature and who are wearing a mask; as well as a wash bay to sanitise ambulances immediately after dropping off COVID - 19 patients.

MEC Simelane-Zulu said:

"Although we are also investing in field hospitals that will be placed in several venues such as the Pietermaritzburg Royal Show grounds and the Durban Exhibition Centre, renovating our own facilities was a must so that our facilities are useful for even after the pandemic.

We also want to make sure that our facilities meet National Health Insurance (NHI) requirements so that they can be accredited."



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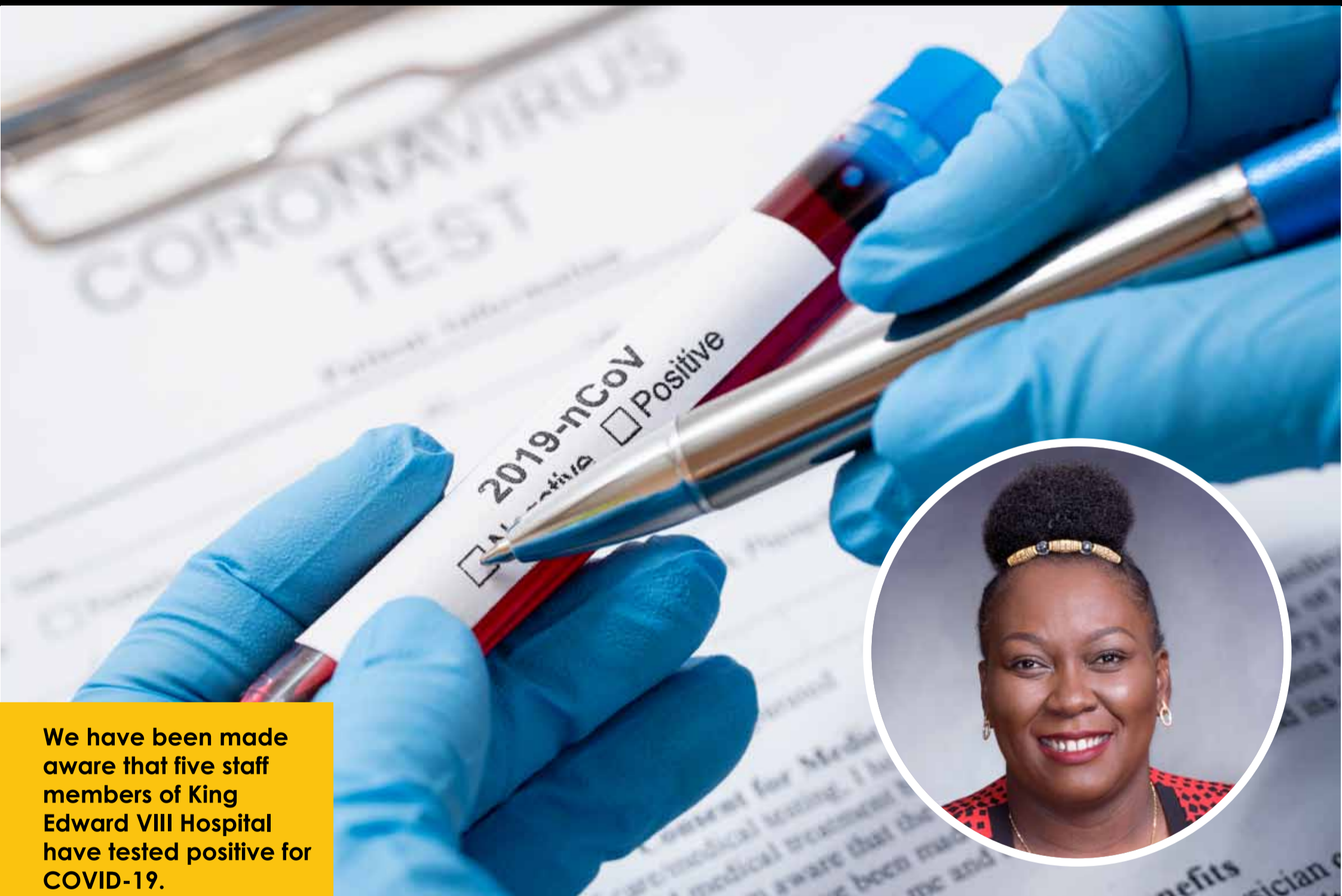
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MEC SPEAKS OUT ABOUT KING EDWARD VII HOSPITAL'S COVID-19 CASES



We have been made aware that five staff members of King Edward VIII Hospital have tested positive for COVID-19.

We also note the unwarranted calls that have been attributed to staff, calling for the closure of the hospital. We wish to reiterate, as we have previously stated, that we will not be embarking on the wholesale closure of every healthcare facility where staff test positive.

That approach is unsustainable. Instead, we are guided by the extent of infections, based on a formal

risk assessment study, in line with guidelines from the World Health Organisation (WHO) on the clinical management of COVID-19.

At King Edward, hospital management is currently conducting the risk assessment study, which will consider, among other factors:

*Where the infection took place;
When it happened;
Who was infected; and
Who their contacts were.*

Our intervention going forward will be based on findings from that investigation. The decision on whether to close the theatre, or any other part of the hospital, will be determined by the number of positive tests and extent of the building's exposure to the virus.

We call upon the media and society at large to understand that hospitals are there to accept and treat patients with various kinds of ailments, including the COVID – 19 epidemic. As Government, we have a paramount

responsibility to provide all the equipment and gear that is necessary to prevent the transmission of the virus within the hospital setting; between patients and staff - and among staff themselves. Both staff and patients have their own responsibility to adhere to safety precautions.

We appeal to them to use their PPE correctly, and at all times. They must leave nothing to chance, because any person or area within a hospital setting is a potential carrier of COVID-19.

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PROTECT CHILDREN FROM COVID-19

This week marks commemoration of Child Protection Week (31 May – 07 June 2020) which aims to raise awareness around the rights and issues that face children.

The theme this year says **“Let us all protect children during Covid-19 and beyond”.**

Government urges all South Africans to support this campaign as children have been one of this country’s most vulnerable groups even before the Covid-19 pandemic hit.

National Child Protection Week is commemorated in the country annually to raise awareness of the rights of children as articulated in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa and Children’s Act (Act No. 38 of 2005) It is up to us to ensure that children do not fall into the hands of abuse, violence and neglect.

Even amid the Covid-19 pandemic, children and youth are still encouraged to seek the socio-economic resources available for them. Health is the most fundamental and essential resource to mark a secured growth and upbringing of children.

During the COVID pandemic it is important to avoid unnecessary trips outside your home.



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However if your newborn baby has any of the following danger signs you need to take him/her to your nearest clinic as soon as possible:

- Breathing faster or difficulty breathing;
- Doesn't feed at the breast or vomiting everything;
- Hot or cold to the touch;
- Shaking or fits, not moving/walking or swelling of body/legs;
- Yellow colour or blue lips;
- Very sleepy, cannot be awakened enough to feed;
- Crying/irritability which does not get better with cuddling and comfort;
- Swollen, red or smelly umbilical cord.

COVID-19 positive women can continue to Breastfeed their Infants.

- Wear a cloth mask (either home-made or bought) during breastfeeding.
- Wash the mask in soapy water as often as you can but at least every day and dry in sunshine.
- It is easier to have two masks, one to wear while the other is being washed or drying.
- Wash your hands and

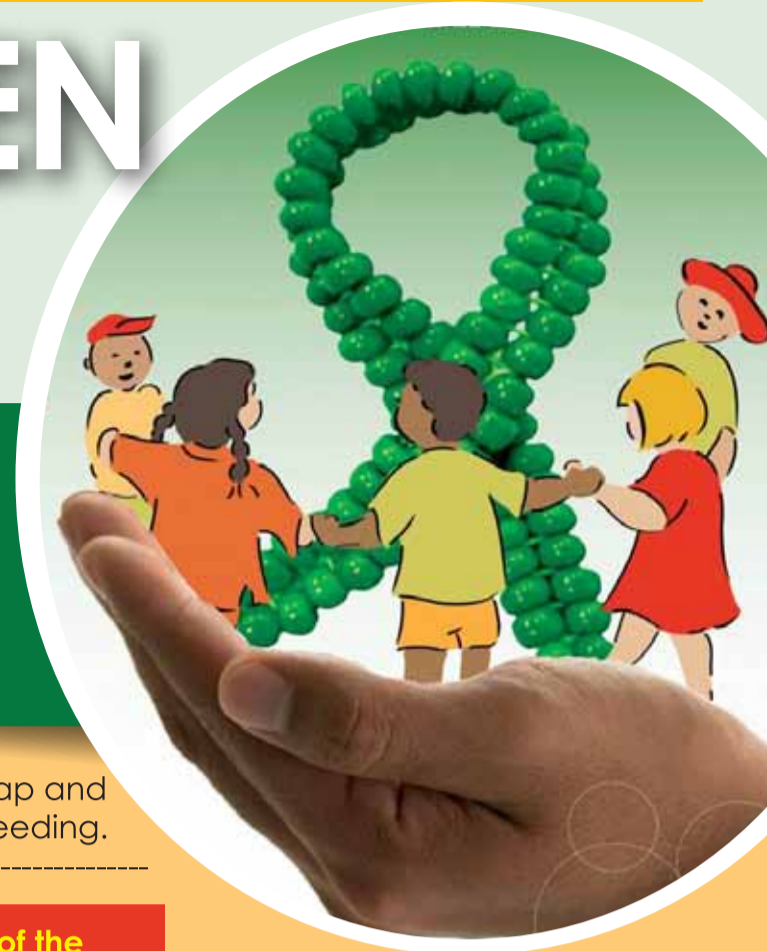
breasts with soap and water before feeding.

If your Child has any of the following danger signs you need to take them to your nearest clinic as soon as possible:

- Refusing to eat or vomiting everything;
- Doesn't play as usual;
- Not moving/walking unless shaken;
- Feverish or chills;
- Severe diarrhea;
- Swelling of body/legs).

During lockdown, isolation and quarantine children require love and stimulation. However you must ensure that you also protect your child when you do this, so;

- Don't touch your child's eyes, put fingers into their mouth or blow in their face.
- Eye contact and smiling and games (from a safe distance of 1.5 meters) will help to keep contact with children.
- Make sure that you keep talking to and engaging the child in usual parent-child conversation.
- Be careful to keep all dangerous products out of the reach of children (including hand sanitiser) and never store them in



cool drink bottles or food jars.

MAINTAINING IMMUNISATION SERVICES

It is very important that every child receives his/her routine childhood vaccinations. The childhood vaccination programme has not been stopped during lockdown and if your child is due for any of the vaccines in his/her Road-to-Health Booklet please take him/her to your nearest clinic for a vaccination.

As the response to COVID-19 continues, WHO urged countries to act now to protect immunisation services, in order to further minimise disease outbreaks and loss of life. This includes facilitating urgent catch-up programmes in places where services have been disrupted, ensuring strong supply chains, disease surveillance and trained health workers.

Caregivers should also make sure they continue to vaccinate their children in line with national policies.



BE MINDFUL: ADHERENCE TO TREATMENT IS A MUST

Are you on chronic medication for the following diseases: HIV, TB, hypertension, diabetes, mental illness as well as other conditions?

Please adhere to your treatment; it is the safer and responsible thing to do. COVID-19 is a serious disease which puts people with underlying health conditions at an even much higher risk of health complications if or when they get infected with Coronavirus. It is therefore important to ensure continuity of treatment and support for viral suppression among people living with various ailments. Adherence to treatment puts ones' immune system in good condition and enables it to fight other opportunistic diseases.

The KZN Department of Health has ensured that those in dire need of their chronic medication are prioritized and get to receive it sooner. All healthcare facilities are dispensing medication during this time and it can also be collected at a pick-up point closer to home. The Central Chronic Medicines Dispensing and Delivery (CCMDD) programme is working effectively to ensure that those enlisted under it receive their treatment without fail.

All chronic patients who have not yet enrolled on the CCMDD programme are urged to ask their clinics about this programme, which now also helps to limit exposure to numerous contacts, who may already be infected or risk transmitting COVID - 19 to others. Patients who encounter challenges regarding the delivery of their medication are encouraged to quickly get in touch with their nearest healthcare facilities.

The Department will actively teach people about how COVID-19 may impact on individuals' health, more especially those living with chronic conditions. The Department is appealing to the

public to be cautious and pay attention to the prevention measures and recommendations.

REDUCE YOUR EXPOSURE TO COVID-19 BY DOING THE FOLLOWING:

Regular and thorough hand washing with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rub sanitiser.

- Maintain at least 1-meter distance between yourself and others at all times, especially those who are coughing or sneezing.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Use your elbow or tissue when you cough or sneeze and dispose of the used tissue immediately.
- Stay home! If you are not feeling well, seek medical attention from your local clinic or doctor.

Patients needing more assistance with the delivery of their chronic medication can call the Department on this Call Centre Number **033 3952279** for assistance.

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PRACTISE **SAFE** AND **RESPONSIBLE** DRINKING



A wave of relief surged through the country when the president announced that alcohol could be sold from the first of the month.

Social media was filled with memes of what this day would look like and when June arrived, reality did not disappoint. Hundreds of people were captured standing outside liquor stores as consumers waited to quench their thirst.

Although this may be a good turn for some; consumers and producers of alcohol, it is important to exercise responsible drinking.

Because of its drug-like effects, alcohol can lead to car accidents, sexually transmitted

infections, teenage pregnancy and many more consequences of bad decisions.

The World Health Organization (WHO) stipulates that in 2012 about 3.3 million global deaths and 1% of the global burden of disease and injury were attributable to alcohol consumption.

The harmful use of alcohol is also a cause of more than 200 disease and injury conditions in individuals such as liver cirrhosis and cancers.

BE SAFE BY

- following the regulation to only drink at home
- only drink in moderation and
- use your time constructively by following a plan daily not unlike the one you followed before the national lockdown. For example, many students are at home but expected to still study and submit their assignments online. Waking up early and being productive with your time will leave less time for irresponsible drinking and thinking.

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