



Dear Stakeholders

In the midst of the ongoing Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the Water Research Commission (WRC) has been closely monitoring the situation in South Africa. We have been keeping a close eye on developments and progress as reported by World Health Organisation (WHO), the President Cyril Ramaphosa and local health authorities to ensure we remain up to date with plans and resources to safeguard the health and well-being of our staff, partners and stakeholders.

Key actions being implemented by national government to stop the spread of the virus were communicated on Sunday 15th March 2020 culminating in President Ramaphosa announcing a 21 day lockdown to begin in the 26th March 2020 and a call to action for all stakeholders to come on-board in supporting the country in combating this pandemic. The WRC is fully committed to supporting national efforts and has proceeded to implement processes within the organisation to support the required actions.

Here are some of the processes and actions that we have put together to safeguard our staff, stakeholders and the general public at large:

- Development and Dissemination of factsheets to inform South Africans and our international partners from all backgrounds on how the COVID – 19 virus affects our drinking water and sanitation infrastructure, operations and quality of service, and how they should safeguard themselves.
- A COVID – 19 dedicated web page on our official website [www.wrc.org.za](http://www.wrc.org.za) for guidelines and additional information which is accessible to the general public.
- Suspension of all international travel and non-essential local travel in line with cabinet decision with a total ban during the 21 day lockdown period.
- Postponement of all events of 100 people or more, during the lockdown period.
  - We are currently implementing plans to convert some of our dialogues and Think-Tanks into virtual events and will keep you posted on developments
- Attendance of face to face meetings have been limited and virtual meetings are being hosted as an alternative where possible. During the lockdown period there will be no face-to-face meetings at all.
- We have implemented stringent health and hygiene protocols to ensure all our staff have the correct knowledge and understanding of the appropriate social interactions to protect themselves from the transmission of the virus
- The WRC staff have been advised to remain vigilant at all times and are encouraged to exercise extra precaution when evaluating their personal health

The South African National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD) continues to provide up to date status/changes of COVID-19 transmission in the country, online at <http://www.nicd.ac.za/>

For more information, you can also visit:

1. The Water Research Commission (WRC) Knowledge Hub at [www.wrc.org.za](http://www.wrc.org.za)
2. The World Health Organisation website at <https://www.who.int/>
3. The Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website at <https://www.cdc.gov/>

The WRC would also like to thank all its partners and stakeholders for the support during these challenging times.

Kindest Regards,  
Water Research Commission

