

IT IS BETTER AND SAFER TO BE QUARANTINED AT A GOVERNMENT FACILITY THAN AT HOME

WE ALSO URGE GENERAL PRACTITIONERS NOT TO SEND PEOPLE WITH COVID SYMPTOMS HOME WITHOUT TESTING THEM



MS NOMAGUGU SIMELANE-ZULU
MEC FOR HEALTH

**IT'S IN
OUR
HANDS**

RECENT developments show that we have now reached a stage where the transmission of COVID-19 is growing at an exponential rate.

As Government, we are extremely concerned about the number of people who are dying from home, having chosen to self-quarantine or isolate at home – instead of doing so at facilities that are provided by Government.

These facilities are staffed with healthcare workers who are trained in the management of COVID-19.

We have issued an instruction to all our Primary Health Care clinics and Community Health Centres to ensure that if any patient is exhibiting signs and symptoms of COVID-19 they must be tested.

No such patients may be sent home without undergoing a COVID-19 test.

As the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health, we have made available a number of quarantine sites where everyone who is awaiting their test results can be accommodated and monitored. Removing oneself from the rest of society in such cases is extremely important as it reduces the risk of COVID-19 transmission in the community.

This arrangement is helpful for those people whose home circumstances do not allow for self-quarantine.

We urge those who have tested positive for COVID-19 not to rely on self-medication, or on the sole usage of traditional remedies such as steaming, because that can lead to complications or death. Especially those at higher risk to develop severe infection.

While the Department does recognise the role and impact of traditional health practitioners within the value chain of health, we urge the public to visit a healthcare facility and adhere to the prescribed treatment schedule.

We have issued contact details of all quarantine sites that people can enquire from regarding the location of such sites, and how they may be accessed.

We have a number of designated COVID-19 health facilities, which are equipped to admit and treat people who have tested positive for COVID-19.

Furthermore, we urge all doctors including those in private practice to ensure that when people present to them with signs and symptoms of COVID – 19 (such as coughing, chest pains, high temperature, or lack of taste) that they are tested for COVID – 19.

We urge doctors not to merely prescribe or dispense symptom relief medication for patients with these symptoms and send them home because they may suffer complications and end up losing their lives. In some instances, such patients may have their COVID-19 results remain unknown well beyond the time of their burial.

Therefore, the need to establish as far as possible whether a patient is suffering from COVID – 19 or not can never be over-emphasised. Undergoing a COVID – 19 test is the only way to determine whether an individual has acquired this disease or not.

WE URGE ALL OUR FELLOW COMPATRIOTS TO ENSURE THAT THEY ADHERE TO COVID-19 SAFETY PROTOCOLS, AND TREATMENT SCHEDULES AT ALL TIMES SO THAT WE CAN REDUCE THE RATE OF INFECTIONS.

CONTACT DETAILS FOR QUARANTINE SITES:

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| AMAJUBA | : 033 328 7051 / 034 328 7028 |
| ETHEKWINI | : 031 480 3701 / 031 480 3703 031 480 3782 / 031 480 3783 |
| HARRY GWALA | : 039 834 8276 |
| ILEMBE | : 066 596 1746 / 067 353 7553 |
| KING CETCHWAYO | : 035 787 6316 |
| UGU | : 083 501 2387 / 066 492 2377 |
| UMGUNGUNDLOVU | : 033-897 1087 / 033-897 1047 033-897 1026 / 033-897 1046 033-897 1043 / 033-897 1055 |
| UMKHANYAKUDE | : 079 508 9829 |
| UMZINYATHI | : 034 299 9105 / 034 299 9131 |
| UTHUKELA | : 036 631 2202 |
| ZULULAND | : 035 879 1052 / 035 879 1053 035 897 1054 / 035 897 1055 035 897 1870 |



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