

BRIEF TO THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH DEEP

WEEKLY UPDATE – 4 to 8 January 2021



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VP: South Deep

LET'S TALK

Facts and fiction: what you need to know about COVID-19



Colleagues,

As we have come to live with COVID-19 there are some things that we have come to know about the disease, and new things we learn as the disease evolves.

What we Know

We KNOW that by following social distancing, washing our hands and wearing a mask we can protect ourselves and others.

We KNOW that COVID-19 can affect young people and old, and that anyone may become very ill.

We KNOW that even if you have no symptoms, you may still have COVID-19 and can pass it on to others.

What we Don't Know and new things we learn

What we don't know is how likely it is that people can get infected a second time. And, we don't know how likely it is that a person affected by one variant of COVID-19 can be affected by another.

Getting re-infected

For many viruses, once a person is infected and has developed antibodies, they develop immunity to the virus. An example is measles: once a person has been infected with measles, they are considered to have lifelong immunity.

But, using the example of the common winter flu, people can be affected more than once each year or even in one season. This is because the virus changes or mutates over time.

Local and international scientists are still studying COVID-19 and they are finding that just because you have been previously infected with COVID-19 does not guarantee protection against future infections. Some patients have tested positive for COVID-19 a second time. While this is still unusual, some think that it may be the case that the same virus that infected the person the first time, could have become dormant for a while, but later got reactivated to cause illness again. So, the body's antibody protection may have a limited life.

Mutating virus

We also know that scientists have identified a new variant of the virus in South Africa, that seems to be spreading far faster than the original variant and seems to be much more virulent. So, it may be that a person could be infected separately by two genetic variants of the virus. In other words, the antibodies produced against variant 1 following the first infection may not provide protection against variant 2.

While studies are continuing to better understand the virus' characteristics, there is a very real chance that people who have previously tested positive could contract the virus again and could infect other people. To prevent this, encourage each and every person to continue taking the necessary precautions even if they have already had the virus - wear your masks properly, avoid touching your face, avoid large gatherings, maintain physical distancing, sanitise, and keep doors and windows open if possible.

Beware:

Scientific studies have shown that you can get re-infected by COVID-19 and, that it may be possible for re-infections by a second mutation of the virus. Play your part in keeping yourself and your loved ones safe by taking all the necessary precautions even if you have tested positive previously.



safety



integrity



respect



responsibility



innovation



delivery

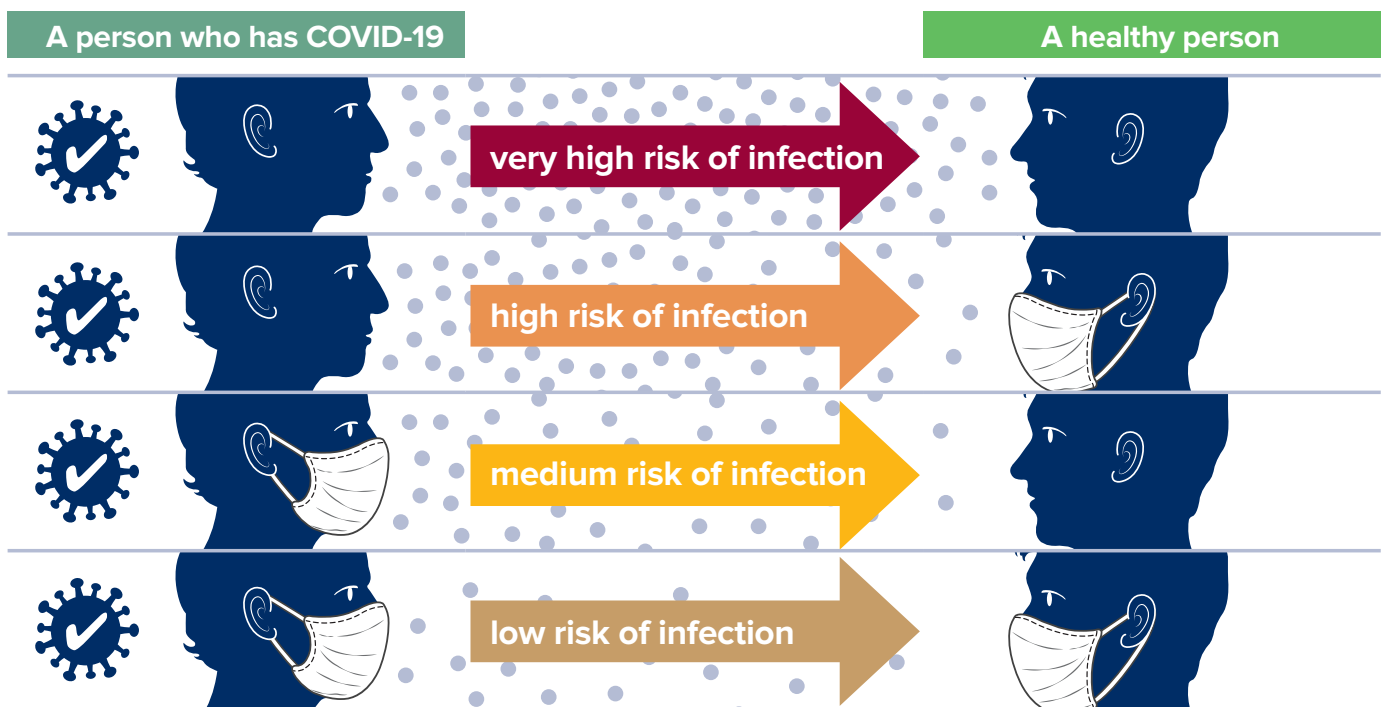


GOLD FIELDS

The health and safety of each and every South Deep employee is important to us, and we have intensified our Infection Prevention and Control programme. This means we will continue to screen and run the random testing programme to limit or contain infection spread at the mine for everyone.

WEARING A MASK IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO

It protects others, and it protects you



COVID-19 Test Results

Individuals that have participated in the Mine's COVID-19 test programme should under no circumstances visit the Mine's Medical Clinic to obtain their results. Results will be directly communicated with you via means of a text message. If you have any queries around your test results please call the COVID-19 contact centre on the following numbers 072 515 9753 or 072 649 8255 on weekdays from 08H00 to 10H00 and 15H00 to 17H00.

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