

BRIEF TO THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH DEEP

17 December 2020



Martin Preece
EVP: South Africa

LET'S TALK

Alarming increase in COVID-19 cases



Dear colleagues

Most of you will have heard President Ramaphosa speak on Sunday night about the alarming increase in COVID-19 infections across the country, and that Gauteng is one of the provinces seeing a major increase in cases.

Unfortunately, it is now clear to us that South Deep's own infection numbers are starting to reflect that alarming trend.

From the start of September until the beginning of December on average only 1.7% of our weekly tests came back as positive for COVID-19. At the beginning of last week this figure had increased to 5.0%, and by the end of last week this number has increased to 10.2%. Nationally across South Africa the positivity rate is at 21% - far above the government target of 10%.

This is deeply concerning for all of us.

Our investigations indicate that the biggest contributors to the increased numbers are attending large gatherings including funerals, parties AND celebrations, aggravated by non-adherence to social distancing; not wearing masks; not sanitizing or washing hands at home and in public.

Many of us will be travelling home or on holiday to high risk areas this week. Wherever possible we would strongly discourage people from travelling, however if you are unable to do so, please remember to be especially careful while you are on the road and once you arrive. If you experience any symptoms at all, please make sure you stay home, and seek medical assistance.

When you return to work after your break, you **must inform** the health team if you have been in a high-risk area, so you can be prioritized for testing. Also, please inform them if you know that you have been in contact with someone who tested positive. I also strongly urge all of you to download the COVID-19 Alert SA exposure notification app to your phones, using the QR code at the end of this brief.

I am urging every South Deep employee to maintain the discipline we have built up this year – if we do not, if we allow ourselves to relax over December, it will have a significant negative impact on our families, on our communities, and on our operation.

Now is the time to stand together, do the right thing, and make sure that we come through into the new year safely.



Download the app here – it's free:
<https://sacoronavirus.co.za/covidalert/>

Martin Preece
EVP: South Africa

Weekly % positives

